

Commons inquiry likely into Westland

No 62,348

THE TIMES MONDAY



The tragedy of schizophrenia. Researching the cause, seeking a cure. Nightmares of captivity. Iran's hostages, five years on.

Portfolio £24,000 to be won. Today's Times Portfolio prizes amount to £24,000...

Revenge kidnap in Beirut. Three Spanish Embassy officials were kidnapped near Beirut airport...

Inflation up to 5.7 per cent. The rate of inflation increased to 5.7 per cent last month.

Shuttle delayed. The return to Earth of the space shuttle Columbia was postponed for another 24 hours...

Botham encore. Ian Botham plans to follow his charity walks from John O'Grada to Land's End...

Tory revolt. Up to 50 Conservative MPs, including former ministers, are expected to abstain or vote against the Government...

Lab to close. More than 300 jobs will be lost with the closure of the G. G. Searle drug company's research laboratory at High Wycombe.

El Al pulls out. El Al, Israel's airline, said last night it would suspend services to Manchester after a dispute with the Department of Transport over new security arrangements.

Gatwick guns. Gatwick airport is to have a squad of police marksmen but they will not carry arms openly, the Chief Constable of Sussex police, Mr Roger Birch, said yesterday.

Marcos riches. President Marcos of the Philippines and his wife own at least £170 million of property in the US, a Congress sub-committee chairman said.

Ford threat. A decision on strike action at Ford will be taken on Thursday after a two to one vote by workers in favour.

Kampala panic. Thousands of Kampala residents fled their homes in panic after shooting was heard in the suburbs and soldiers were seen converging on the city.

England hopes. England seek a rare win over Wales at Twickenham, and France gamble against Scotland at Murrayfield, in the five nations rugby championship.

Table with 2 columns: News, Features, etc. and 2 rows of items and counts.

Westland board dealt blow by shareholders

The board of Westland Helicopters was defeated as shareholders failed to approve a proposal that Sikorsky and Fiat mount a £74 million rescue.

Sir John Cuckney, Westland's chairman, won only 65 per cent of the shareholders' votes instead of the 75 per cent needed.

John Cuckney, chairman of ailing helicopter company, Westland, received a blow last night to his proposal that Sikorsky and Fiat mount a £74 million rescue package...

Sir John was successful in steering off the company's imminent demise as 50m per cent of shareholders voted to allow the company to borrow more money...

Asked if he would be speaking with Mr Alan Bristow, who has a 15 per cent holding in Westland, Sir John said that he had no intention of doing so.

At the end of the extraordinary general meeting in London Mr Alan Bristow called for the resignation of the whole Westland board.

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By Judith Harley and Paul Valley. Sir John Cuckney, chairman of ailing helicopter company, Westland, received a blow last night to his proposal...



Mr Alan Bristow, who has a 15 per cent stake in Westland, arriving at the Albert Hall.

Royal Yacht helps Aden evacuation

Boats from the Royal Yacht Britannia helped to evacuate Britons and other foreign nationals from South Yemen yesterday amid a sharp escalation in the fighting between rival Marxist factions within the ruling Yemen Socialist Party.

The Foreign Office announced last night that the Royal Yacht, on its way to Australia, had begun taking people off the beaches outside Aden.

Earlier in the day British, French and Soviet warships had assembled off the coast of Aden to assist with the evacuation of hundreds of foreign nationals.

The Soviet Union last night called for an immediate end to the fighting and the restoration of unity in the ruling Yemen Socialist Party.

Kasparov refuses match

Gary Kasparov, aged 22, the new World Chess Champion, has told The Times that he cannot and will not contest the return match with Anatoly Karpov, the defeated champion.

Hunt for 'Mr X' as captors free envoy's brother

Muhammad Sadiq al-Tajir, brother of one of the world's richest men, was yesterday released by a gang of international kidnapers after negotiations stretching across thousands of miles and the payment of \$3 million.

The missing man, a Knightsbridge travel agent, was freed after 11 days' captivity when his ordeal ended on a note of bathos. His guards vanished and he was left to stagger into the street dragging the bedframe to which he was still chained.

Mr al-Tajir, reputed to be worth up to £2 billion after a business career often built on commissions and business deals for Dubai, agreed to pay the ransom after consultations with his family.

It is the first time in recent years that a known kidnap has ended with the payment of the ransom but no arrests.

Mr George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the ambassador had emphasized that he himself would not have paid

Group of Five likely to call for loan rate cut

Finance ministers of the Group of Five leading economies, meeting in London today, are expected to agree on the principle of lowering world interest rates.

The meeting of the ministers of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Japan, is the first since the momentous New York gathering last September, which produced sharp falls in the dollar.

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Ridley accused of Channel partiality

Sir Nigel Brookes, head of one of the three consortia bidding to build the channel tunnel, yesterday accused Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, of "extraordinary partiality" to Mr James Sherwood's rival Expressway scheme.

This will come as a further source of embarrassment for the Prime Minister in the wake of the Westland debacle.

Three days before Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand are due to disclose which of three remaining competing groups will build the fixed link, Sir Nigel said he found it hard to understand Mr Ridley's "partiality to James Sherwood's Expressway, which I find extraordinary".

By Nicholas Timmins. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine may face prosecution after ampoules of smallpox virus were found in a biscuit tin at the bottom of a leaking refrigerator in a corridor at the school.

TUC talks on policy at Wapping

Print union leaders met last night at the TUC headquarters in a fresh effort to agree a common policy towards News International despite the electricians' union decision to pursue separate negotiations with its management covering the east London plant.

The talks were still going on after two hours as the company went ahead with plans to include for the first time in tomorrow's Sunday Times a 24-page jobs supplement printed at the new Wapping plant.

The supplement is due to be delivered to 7,000 retailers in the London area by the distribution firm TNT after the refusal of the central London branch representing wholesale workers in Sogat 82 to handle the supplement.

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Serious Tory revolt likely in Commons over cut in rate support for shires

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

After one of the worst weeks on record for Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Administration, the Government faces the prospect of a significant backbench rebellion on Monday over the cut in rate support grant to shire counties.

Up to 50 Conservative MPs, including former Cabinet ministers, are expected to abstain or vote against the Government unless Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, can promise more cash or a review of their case.

In an unprecedented move, the Association of County Councils has written to all MPs urging them to vote against the Government.

Councils are ordered to sell off unused land

By George Hill

The Government ordered 17 councils yesterday to sell 125 acres of unused land, unless they can show a need for it within six weeks.

The announcement marks an intensification of the campaign to bring publicly-owned housing and land into use, especially in inner city areas, in response to pressure from the housing industry and to relieve the threat to Green Belt land.

Notices calling for the sale of further sites will follow at monthly intervals in 1986. Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, said yesterday:

"I must warn local authorities and nationalized industries that I will no longer tolerate the slow rate at which they are bringing this land into use," Mr Patten said in a speech

US dons to boycott conference

More than 200 American academics will boycott the World Archaeological Congress, due to be held in Southampton in September, because of a decision by the British organizers to ban 26 South African delegates.

The ban by the organizing committee of the International Union of Pre and Proto Historic Sciences has erupted into an acrimonious feud between opponents of apartheid and those who believe politics should not destroy the spirit of the world congress.

Last month Professors Graham Clark, Glyn Daniel, and Stuart Piggott, three of Britain's most distinguished archaeologists, resigned as vice-presidents of the congress in protest.

"The ban has done intensive damage to the cause of international archaeology, and whatever evaluates it is a very sad day for British archaeology," Professor Daniel said at St John's College, Cambridge.

He added that reports had been received that more than 200 of the 600 members of the American Archaeological Association are boycotting the congress.

He said that the South African archaeologists who have been banned are fiercely opposed to apartheid and have pursued that stand throughout their careers.

The pressure to "disinvite" the South Africans and one delegate from Namibia, came from the Southampton branch of the Association of University Teachers, the Southampton Students Union, which threatened demonstrations and a ban on the use of its buildings for the congress; and the Labour-dominated Southampton Council, which does not recognize the South African regime.

Ford vote to strike over pay offer

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of 35,000 Ford manual workers yesterday demanded a new offer on pay and conditions, after a strike vote of more than two to one.

Management has agreed to meet union negotiators next Thursday, but the company indicated last night that it had not changed a pay percentage in recent years because of a strike threat.

Mr Michael Murphy, the chief union negotiator, said yesterday that he was not prepared to countenance "protracted negotiations", and a decision on industrial action would be made next Thursday.

He said that shop stewards had pressed for an immediate walkout in the wake of the vote, by 20,578 to 9,100, against the company's "final offer" of 15.7 per cent over two years to 10,000 live workers, and 13.5 per cent to others.

The company has tied the offer to a radical productivity change which would increase "versatility and flexibility", and cut a swathe through traditional demarcation lines by recoding job specifications from 500 to 58.

None of the 12 unions, who conducted ballots in the 24 Ford plants voted to accept the offer. Only the research centre at Dunton and commercial vehicle factory at Southampton decided to accept.

Mr Murphy said that 86 per cent of members voted and he was "pleasantly surprised" at the size of the majority supporting the negotiators' recommendation to reject the offer.

There was no indication whether workers had rejected the package because of its radical proposals, or because the pay increase was not big enough. "Either way it was clearly a massive rejection by any yardstick of the company's final offer", he said.

Bill to aid handicapped given second reading

By John Winder

A Labour backbench MP's Bill to improve the lot of the handicapped and mentally ill was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday.

The Government response was less than full-hearted, however, and Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said that it would have to be considerably altered if it was to be enacted.

Mr Tom Clarke, MP for Monklands West and proposer of the Bill, said it would give those affected a greater say in decisions affecting them, and a Conservative sponsor, Mr John Hannam, MP for Exeter, said it would streamline bureaucracy. But Mr Hayhoe saw some of its proposed provisions as a recipe for "inflexibility, bureaucracy, legalism and waste".

In the debate, Mr Alfred Morris, Labour spokesman on disabled people, praised Mr Hayhoe's Ministerial support articles in *The Times* on schizophrenia.

He claimed that the early intervention in community care provided by the Bill would save resources, according to experts. A leading article in *The Times* said the Bill both sought a closing of the gap between precept and practice.

Parliament, page 4

Wrangle over Westland's future continues to simmer

Brittan and Lygo patch up peace

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan and Sir Raymond Lygo yesterday patched up a sort of peace, with Sir Raymond bowing to the Department of Trade and Industry in the dispute over what was said at the meeting between the two on January 8.

It came in the form of an exchange of letters in which Sir Raymond, chief executive of British Aerospace, put forward an explanation of how their "misunderstanding" had arisen.

Mr Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, replied, accepting that the misunderstanding between them had "now been cleared up".

The dispute had been over Sir Raymond's claim that Mr Brittan had suggested British Aerospace's involvement in the European consortium offering a rescue package to Westland was against the national interest, and that the company should withdraw.

In yesterday's letter Sir Raymond effectively accepted that whatever had been said Mr Brittan had not meant either of these things.

Sir Raymond's letter was last night being interpreted in some quarters as a climb-down, although it reads more like a mutual accommodation.

Certainly British Aerospace were in an extremely exposed position being in open conflict with their sponsoring minister, and with the Prime Minister having accepted Mr Brittan's account of what had taken place. Sir Raymond's position had not been helped by the fact that he was the only British Aerospace representative at the meeting, while there were five people from the Department of Trade and Industry.

It is understood that in drafting the letter there was close consultation between British Aerospace and the ministry, so that it was known to be acceptable.

An essential part of the peace-making process seems to have been an exchange in the Commons at question time on Thursday when Mrs Thatcher accepted a suggestion by Mr Michael Marshall, Conservative MP for Arundel, that the dispute was "a case of genuine misunderstanding".

There are two main points in Sir Raymond's letter, which was released yesterday afternoon.

It reads: "If, indeed you said only that it was in the national interest that the present uncertainty over Westland's future be ended as soon as possible and not, as I previously understood you to say, that the continuing



Mr Leon Brittan, launching the book *Protectionism and Industrial Policy in Europe*, commissioned by his department more than three years ago, at Chatham House, headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, yesterday (Photograph: Graham Lookson)

campaign on behalf of the European consortium was against the national interest, I would accept that."

Also Sir Raymond explicitly accepts that Mr Brittan at no time said that "British Aerospace should withdraw from the European consortium", but says that it had never been suggested that Mr Brittan had used those words.

The letter suggests that what Sir Raymond had interpreted as a demand for British Aerospace to withdraw, had only been intended as a suggestion that he personally "should withdraw in the sense of lowering my profile as a spokesman for the consortium".

The letter was being seen last night as an important step in the process by which Mr Brittan has gradually been extricating himself from his difficulties over the meeting.

The controversy over the meeting was made public by Mr Michael Heseltine on the day of his resignation. Last night he refused to comment on Sir Raymond's letter. Mrs Thatcher on the other hand welcomed it. "Obviously it is good news that the problem is sorted out," she said.

A further strand in the controversy over Westland emerged in a letter to Mrs Thatcher from Mr John Smith, Labour's spokesman on trade and industry. He pointed out that Lord Hanson and GEC, who are on opposing sides in the Westland battle, were involved in take-over bids.

He asked: "What action is to be taken to ensure that the involvement of GEC and Hanson on opposite sides of the Westland battle is kept completely out of account, and seen to be kept out of account, in the consideration of whether either of the take-over bids is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

Workers still prefer Sikorsky

From Craig Seton, Yeovil

The drug company G.D. Searle is to close its main British research laboratory at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in a phased shutdown over the next six months. More than 300 jobs will go, over half filled by scientists.

Work will be transferred to the United States, with some shared between Searle laboratories in France and Japan. The move is part of a reorganization following the company's takeover by Monsanto, the US chemical company.

Searle is one of a number of drug companies to have made cutbacks recently, as a result of government pressure to save money on the National Health Service drugs bill.

The company said that government policies over the past 12 to 18 months has a significant effect on the reorganization, but it was not the main factor for withdrawing most of the research to the United States.

Nevertheless, it said that it has not received the credit which it thought due from the Government following a £20 million investment in a new factory at Morphix Northumberland, completed last year.

The Department of Health and Social Security has a points system to calculate the price the Government will offer a drug company for its products. A company that is British-owned, manufactures for the home and export markets and conducts extensive research, fares better than a foreign-owned company that only imports or has a franchise.

The shutdown affects pre-clinical research on substances for possible new medicines in three main fields: cardiovascular treatments, allergies and gastro-intestinal illnesses.

A plan involving a £1 million investment and the loss of 250 jobs was announced yesterday by the Birmingham Post and Mail. A statement by the company said that the additional investment in new plant and equipment was designed to take the newspaper into the 1990s.

The plan provided for a reduction in the workforce from 1400 to 1150 full-time employees.

● Metal Box is to cut 421 jobs at its plant in Neath, South Wales, which employs 956 and makes tin components and printed tinplate for home and abroad.

The first 287 jobs will go by April, with a further 134 going by April 1987.

● Kenwood, manufacturers of household utensils, are cutting 90 jobs at their factory at Havant, Hampshire, and reducing the working week from four days to three because of a lack of orders.

Mr Tom O'Toole, a design engineer and company employee for three years, said: "There has been a good relationship with Sikorsky for many years but the European offer is an unknown quantity. There is great uncertainty and we are no longer sure there is a future here for everyone."

The workers at Yeovil have long memories. Many of their doubts about the European offer are based on their distrust of the French who, they say, reneged on a deal to take 200 Lynx helicopters in the 1960s, instead taking only 40.

They say that the company has worked closely and successfully with Sikorsky since the first deal in 1946, and there are still men at the plant who were working there then.

Supporters of the European deal are impossible to find. At a recent union meeting, 1,200 workers voted for the Sikorsky arrangement and only one was regarded as brave but rather foolish - put his hand up for the European offer.

Mr Edwin Hackett, aged 43, a development progress engineer since 1981, said: "People are extremely sad about this blocking move. We have a lot of work to do here, and we cannot really do it until we know who we are working for. There is a great feeling that we have been shafted for political and personal reasons. And people do not like that."

Another member of staff said: "We do not want a European deal because we distrust the French. Every time the French have placed work with us they have thrown it back in our face."

Exchange of letters ends slanging match

By Our Lobby Reporter

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday published, by agreement with British Aerospace, an exchange of correspondence between Sir Raymond Lygo, chief executive of BAc and Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Dear Secretary of State,

As we have stated publicly, British Aerospace regrets the controversy which has developed over what was said at the meeting held in your office on January 8, 1986, and, of course, I totally share that view. We have not sought this situation, nor at any time has

Heseltine more honest, poll says

By Our Lobby Reporter

An opinion poll into the Westland affair last night revealed that a majority of people believe Mr Michael Heseltine has been more honest than the Prime Minister about the Government's role.

More than half, 54 per cent, of people asked to take everything into account, not just the Westland affair, agreed that Mrs Thatcher should retire before the next general election.

Of Conservative supporters 27 per cent agreed.

The survey, conducted for Independent Television News by Harris Research Centre, says that only one person in ten believes the account given by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Leon Brittan, of his contentious meeting with Sir Raymond Lygo, chief executive of British Aerospace, on January 8. Fifty-eight per cent believe Sir Raymond's version.

Among Conservative supporters 19 per cent believe Mr

South Africa job advertisement brings complaint

By Pat Healy

Barclays Bank is to be reported to the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Advertising Standards Authority because its South African-linked bank group advertised for 150 top computer jobs in South Africa. "A family country" where "your talent is your passport" to a new life.

The advertisement, placed by Barclays National Bank of South Africa in the current issue of *Computer Weekly*, offers salaries of £10,000 to £50,000 to systems and projects managers, who are also offered low-cost mortgages, and cars.

The advertisement shows a British passport issued to "J. B. Citizen", but makes no mention of the difficulties successful black applicants might meet in seeking to settle in white residential areas.

The advertisement is being referred to the CRE as being potentially in breach of Britain's race relations laws, and to the ASA as misleading, by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

I believe it may have been during this part of our conversation that an unfortunate misunderstanding arose and it may well be that you intended to infer that, in view of British Aerospace's wider interests, personally should withdraw in the sense of lowering my profile as spokesman for the consortium.

I notice there are certain other discrepancies in our respective records of the meeting, but these appear relatively minor.

I very much hope the matter can be left on this basis.

I have shown this letter to my chairman, Sir Austin Pearce, who fully approves its content.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond Lygo

Dear Sir Raymond,
Thank you for your letter of today's date.

I am most grateful to you for writing. I believe the misunderstanding between us has now been cleared up. Certainly I do not question - and have never sought to question - your integrity, either personally or as chief executive of British Aerospace.

Your sincerely,
Leon Brittan
Leading article, page 9

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War gas victim refused pension backdate

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security is refusing to backdate a war disablement pension for a service man poisoned by mustard gas in the Second World War, despite the fact that on grounds of secrecy he was not told he had been exposed to the gas.

Mr Bertram Stevens, aged 64, from Chadwell St Mary, Essex, was affected by the gas when a United States ammunition ship carrying tons of it blew up after an air raid on Bari harbour in Italy in 1943.

He received treatment for two days and was discharged from the Army as 100 per cent fit after the end of the war. Since then, however, he has become increasingly ill with a lung condition and is going progressively blind, according to Dr Oonagh McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock.

The possibility that the wartime incident was the cause became apparent only in 1983. The Department of Health and Social Security has granted him a disablement pension, but is refusing to backdate it beyond the date of his claim.

Fowler Bill offers chance to pull out of Serps

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Incentives to individuals to pull out of the state earnings-related pensions scheme (Serps) and set up their own personal pensions are proposed in the social security Bill published yesterday.

The bill sets out changes to Serps which will cut the benefits it pays out and its cost to the taxpayer in the year 2033 by almost a half, from £25.5 billion to just over £13 billion.

At the same time banks, building societies and unit trusts are to be allowed to run pension schemes based on money purchase, rather than on employees' final salaries.

The bill also provides for sweeping changes in social security which will end the present supplementary benefit scheme, creating a new system of income support.

Extra help with single items such as furniture and clothing will go, to be replaced by a social fund which will make loans instead of grants, to be given on a discretionary basis. A new family credit will help those in low-paid work and housing benefit is to be simplified, with an end to the

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Kidnappers kept their distance as trail crossed continents

Reports by Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Britain's most complex kidnap case began innocently enough 12 days ago, as Muhammad Sadiq al-Tajir, younger brother of the ambassador to Britain of the United Arab Emirates, walked home through Knightsbridge from his travel agency opposite Harrods.

A group of Arabs, posing as businessmen, approached him near his flat at South Lodge to discuss a "property deal". Before he knew what had happened the man, aged 44, had been bundled into a car and hit over the head.

When he regained consciousness he was captive in a south London house and the first manoeuvres were under way in a skillfully researched abduction. The kidnappers were careful to distance themselves from the negotiations and the cash.

Mr al-Tajir suspected at one

stage that the gang might have intended to seize his brother, worth up to £2 billion, and made a mistake in seizing him. Mistake or not - if they had seized Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, the ambassador, they would have had difficulty in obtaining any money - their plans worked well.

Negotiations were conducted by an intermediary who made the first approach from the United States and then moved across Europe before talking delivery of the money in Beirut, where the chances of police interference were minimal.

The negotiator, called Mr X, by the police, claimed that he could reach the gang holding the victim only once every 24 hours. If true, that suggests contact was made via a London call box which Mr X had to ring.

The money was made out in a banker's draft rather than in cash. The gang may not have trusted the negotiator to accept cash on their behalf and let discussions run until they could make sure the draft was used in the Middle East, where they would be present and safe.

Even when the money was paid over the gang took no chances, and simply ditched their victim, giving themselves time to get-out of Britain.

Less than 12 days later, Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch know his true identity and are likely to circulate descriptions across Europe and the United States.

They believe that Mr X may have been a genuine intermediary, and that he can provide a wealth of detail on a kidnapping which could yet prove to have political overtones. A Middle Eastern terrorist or political organization may be \$3 million richer after outdistancing Scotland Yard.

Scotland Yard acknowledged yesterday that they had been dealing with an unusual and complicated abduction which proved to be the first in recent years when they had not stepped in to make arrests.

As with other cases they were called in at an early stage. The Yard was informed when the first telephone call to Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir was made, the day after his brother vanished.

The first call from Mr X, made from the United States, came at about 9.30am on January 7. The caller contacted the UAE embassy and was given the ambassador's private number.

He first became ambassador in 1972 after a career which included running the customs in Dubai and negotiating the opening of the state's oil resources to American companies.

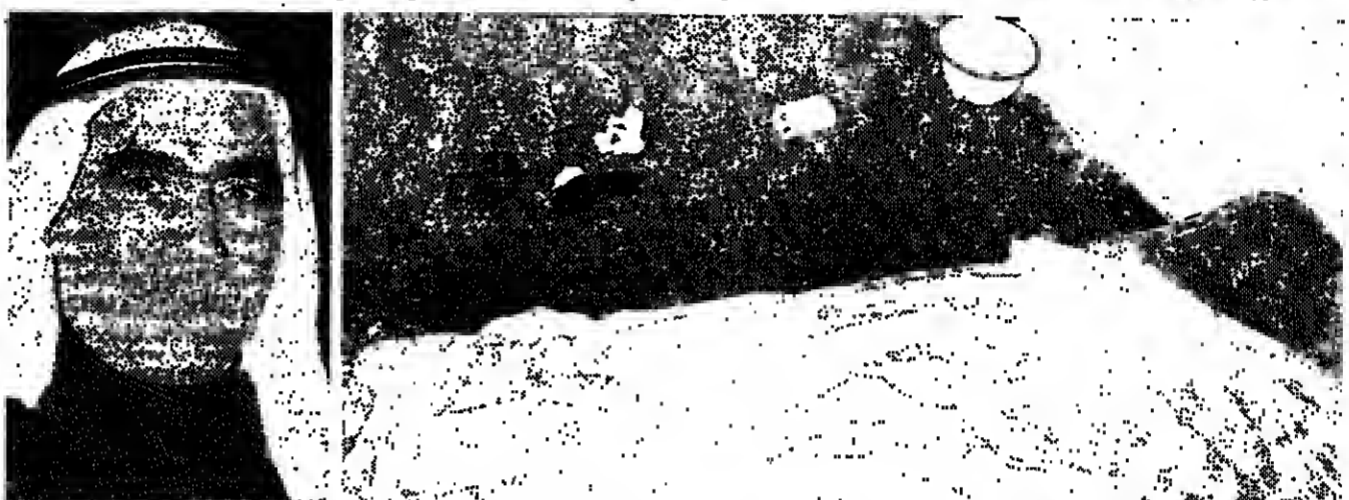
He owns three English country houses, an interest in a Scottish castle, homes in Paris and Geneva and part of the Marjaca coastline and sections of Houston, Texas.

He has also been the centre of controversy. He was reprimanded by the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps in 1979 for missing the opening of Parliament without telling anyone. In 1982 he gave up the ambassadorship, apparently to be near the Dubai ruler who was ill, without formal notice of taking leave of the Queen.

The Foreign Office recognized his new letters of appointment after a three-month delay.



Mr Muhammad Sadiq al-Tajir, after his release yesterday, and the south London house where he was freed.



Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, and the room where his brother was held (Photograph: The London Standard).

Porter who rose to build £2bn fortune

The gang which kidnaped Mr Muhammad Sadiq al-Tajir chose a victim whose brother has claimed to be the richest man in the world.

Mr al-Tajir's brother Mahdi is not only the Ambassador in London and Paris of the United Arab Emirates but also is reputedly worth £2 billion.

The kidnappers' initial demand for a ransom of £50 million might seem small beer to a man who owns a string of mansions and castles full of art treasures. Mr Muhammad al-Tajir, aged 44, is himself reasonably well-to-do. A single man, he has lived in London for 14 years, running a travel agency and keeping a home at South Lodge, Knightsbridge.

But the businessman is overshadowed by his elder brother, who has become a key figure in the Gulf, rising from an obscure start as a porter at Bahrain harbour.

He first became ambassador in 1972 after a career which included running the customs in Dubai and negotiating the opening of the state's oil resources to American companies.

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Police doubts on abduction

Speaking in Arabic, the caller told the ambassador that if he represented wanted £50 million for the return of the ambassador's younger brother. It was to be the first of more than 20 calls, some brief and some lasting up to half an hour, during which negotiations for the life of Sadiq al-Tajir went on.

As the calls continued, with Mr X saying where he was calling from, Scotland Yard detectives were listening and monitoring what was happening. Several Special Branch officers have been taught Arabic in the last couple of years.

Proof that the missing man was alive came the day after the first call with a letter written in Arabic in which he begged his brother to help him.

He told him: "I am kidnapped, my life is in danger. Please do not contact any authorities or Western officials or any others. Please do the impossible to release me."

The letter had been posted the night before in London and Scotland believed that the missing man was still somewhere in the capital. There were also doubts about how genuine the kidnap would prove to be.

That question made over the abduction apparently led police not to begin imposing a news blackout, which involves keeping journalists secretly briefed, until four days had elapsed. During that period they listened to the calls and tried to judge how genuine they were.

Scotland Yard, in common with many other police forces, has always maintained a policy that money should not be paid over to kidnappers, but the ambassador decided after consulting his family that he would pay.

After five days the demand had been whittled down to \$3 million but the kidnappers were nervous. Early on Friday, January 10 Mr X told the ambassador he wanted fresh

assurances that the authorities had not been informed.

The ambassador gave the assurance. He had to repeat it when an Arab newspaper that weekend carried some details of the kidnap, but the gang were satisfied.

Late on January 10 a member of the al-Tajir family flew to Europe to hand over the draft. The brief meeting, thought to have been in either Geneva or Zurich, was monitored by police and from that point on Mr X was under surveillance as the talks continued.

Meanwhile the man who was the subject of the negotiations was being kept chained to a bed in a room of a rented house in Harpenden Road, West Norwood. He was left unshowered and unwashed, and dressed in a track suit. His captors were hooded.

At first he refused to eat or drink and lay for much of the day with his eyes covered by a black satin mask. At times he was apparently given drugs to keep him docile.

Last Sunday his mask was removed and he was made to pose against a copy of that day's *Sunday Express*. One of the gang of four who were keeping guard on him took a picture with a Polaroid camera.

After dark that evening the picture and a fresh letter from the victim were left at a "drop" behind a park bench in the underground pedestrian area of Marble Arch. The gang also posted a second letter from Mr al-Tajir near by.

Mr X had the bank draft but it could not be cashed without

the agreement of the ambassador; no bank would be happy to pay out so much money without prior arrangement.

The next stage in the negotiations was the arrangement for banking the draft. The ambassador wanted proof however that his brother was alive.

The photograph was intended to provide that proof. On Sunday evening, after another telephone call from Mr X, a member of the UAE embassy staff went to the bench, watched by members of the Yard's C11 surveillance branch, and found the package.

Mr X had left Switzerland and travelled to Rome over the weekend, still shadowed by police. The negotiations continued about the clearance of the draft and Mr X made it clear he would be going to Beirut.

To keep tight pressure on the ambassador there were further letters from his brother begging for help. A second Polaroid picture was enclosed with one letter showing the victim's head, still with the newspaper as a backdrop, at a fresh angle to show that he was alive when the picture was taken.

From Beirut Mr X continued to talk to the ambassador in London. On Wednesday the negotiator tried to cash the draft without success. New arrangements were made and the ambassador cleared payment.

Late on Thursday night the ambassador received his last call from Mr X. He announced that he had handed over the money to the gang and Mr al-Tajir would be released soon.



Assistant Commissioner John Dellow of Scotland Yard yesterday with the mask Mr al-Tajir wore (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Coma boy's parents 'not fully informed'

By Ronald Farr

The death of a boy aged seven in Glasgow after an operation at a private hospital to remove a blemish from his lip might have been avoided, Sheriff Brian Kearney said in a reserved report yesterday.

His finding came after a fatal incident inquiry at Glasgow Sheriff Court on James McAlpine, of Milngavie, who died 20 hours after the operation at Ross Hall Hospital last February.

The boy was taken for emergency treatment to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at York Hill, Glasgow, where he died from brain damage. The sheriff said the death might have been avoided if the parents had been more fully informed about the haz-

ards of a comparatively rare operating technique.

That involved injecting a clotting material into an artery to block the supply of blood to the blemish, which would eventually disappear. In the boy's case some of the clotting material entered an artery leading to the brain. He lapsed into a coma before dying of brain damage.

The sheriff said that Mr Martyn Webster, consultant plastic surgeon, had failed to tell the boy's parents that he had a £27,000 shareholding in Ross Hall Hospital. He had also failed to tell the parents that a specialist, Dr Evelyn Teasdale, had refused to perform the operation at Ross Hall but had been willing to carry out the operation at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow,

where she felt there were better back-up facilities.

The sheriff said the day after the operation the boy's condition rapidly worsened. He showed symptoms of distress, inability properly to recognize his parents and paralysis on the left side of his body.

The sheriff said that nursing staff at Ross Hall might have had difficulty in recognizing the "neurological phenomenon" the boy was experiencing because of the general effects of his earlier anaesthetic.

The sheriff said that where a doctor had a financial interest in an organization where he proposed to refer a patient, he should always disclose that interest before making the referral.

Mr James McAlpine, aged 33,

a salesman and father of the boy, said yesterday his son would be alive today and would never have gone to hospital if he and his wife had been told by Mr Webster of the possible hazards of the operation.

They intended to sue a party or parties involved, not on the basis of money but to get justice and to ensure that the public were aware of what was involved if anyone was considering having such an operation performed on their child.

Ross Hall Hospital said that Mr Webster had made an error of judgement by not telling the parents of a financial interest in the hospital, but any allegations that he was motivated by any other interest than that of his patient had not been found acceptable to the sheriff.

Drugs chief sought aid from prince, jury told

The ringleader of a cocaine-smuggling network asked an Arab prince, who financed the network, for money to flee Britain where he feared arrest, a court was told yesterday.

Gary Savory, aged 34, of Riders Terrace, St John's Wood, north London, visited the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in January last year demanding £20,000: his share of a £250,000 cocaine deal, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Savory demanded to see the Prince, who was not there.

Savory said the prince owed him the £20,000 for one particular cocaine deal and he needed the money to get out of the country, he said.

"He said two members of the gang were in prison and the

police were after him. He said the police wanted him because he was the main man."

Mr Worsley added that the £20,000 was part of a £250,000 deal and that Mr Savory left looking "very disturbed".

He alleged that on hearing of the visit, the Prince said he could not understand what Savory wanted because he owed him only about two thousand.

The court heard that packets of cocaine were smuggled into Britain from Amsterdam as early as 1976. The defendant is accused of leading a team of men who smuggled cocaine from Amsterdam to London, and from London to other parts of the country, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. He is also accused of leading a team of men who smuggled cocaine from Amsterdam to London, and from London to other parts of the country, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto.

The trial continues on Monday.

Bran and chips struggle for the nation's palate

By Robin Young

More than half Britain's mothers have modified their families' diet because of health concerns, and nearly a fifth are now "very careful" about keeping to a strict eating and fitness regime, according to a survey prepared by a big advertising agency.

A less healthy finding reported by the agency, D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, is that the rest of the country's housewives show pronounced resistance to dietary change.

The study analyses data collected from 6,000 housewives and shows that concern about healthy eating is not confined to the professional and managerial classes, or to the South-east. It has also been taken hold among the skilled manual classes and in northern areas, although not Scotland.

The researchers claim to have identified six groups of women by their attitudes to healthy eating.

"Superfits": About 17 per cent of housewives who jog, do aerobics or play squash and are committed to the idea of "proper meals" and "balanced diet", that means meat, fruit, fruit juices, salads, bran, wholemeal bread, white meat rather than red and often fish, pasta, cheese or pulses instead of meat. They seldom serve puddings but drink a lot of wine.

"Younger Concerned": A similar number who are not quite as

zealous; they want healthier diets but are obstructed by their children's craving for chips, hamburgers and "fast" foods.

"Older Concerned": An equal number again of over 45s who are motivated by the thought of living longer.

"Older Apathetics": About 14 per cent who believe strongly in "proper meals" but interpret that as meat and two veg and they still value milk, eggs and butter.

"Younger Apathetics": Also 17 per cent, who with exotic and foreign rather than health foods; they may restrict their children's sugar intake but if they diet themselves it is for cosmetic reasons.

"Grandies": about 18 per cent who are past retirement age and living on low incomes; healthy eating is low in their priorities.

The report says that indulgence foods such as confectionery and convenience foods such as hamburgers are firmly established in the nation's diet.

Among the health-conscious the products most under threat are dairy products, salt, meat, sugar, and products with preservatives or additives.

There are marketing opportunities, it is suggested, for low-salt and no-sugar products, low-fat meat products, and for junk foods with more natural and less chemical content.

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Law Society campaign to eliminate race bias among solicitors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society is to conduct an ethnic monitoring scheme to eliminate racial discrimination within the legal profession, the society announced yesterday.

All would-be solicitors are to be asked to declare their ethnic origin when applying to be trainee solicitors or for their practising certificates under the scheme, to be carried out in co-operation with the Commission for Racial Equality.

The aim will be to examine the effects of selection and personnel practices to see if candidates from any racial group are disproportionately excluded from jobs.

Since 1974, candidates of any nationality have been able to qualify as solicitors, but there are no figures how many black solicitors there are in the profession.

A report by the society's race relations sub-committee says that the level of discrimination in society generally makes it "most unlikely that the solicitors' profession is free of discrimination."

One cause of a solicitor's firm discriminating reached the Court of Appeal in 1982: it would be "wholly unsafe to

Proposals to end legal demarcations published

Radical proposals for restructuring the legal profession with a view to ending restrictive practices between solicitors and barristers are to go out to the profession and the public as a consultation paper, the Law Society announced yesterday.

The society's council has approved publication of the draft proposals which will so far as possible be open to all individuals including government representatives, the Bar and consumer groups.

Mr Andrew Lockley, secretary of the society's litigation committee, which drew up the paper, said yesterday: "We want to see what the groundswell of opinion is."

"There has been a lot of

pressure from some local law societies to look ahead to the future of the profession. They look at the way the conveyancing debate was handled and ask that this should not happen again."

But he added that the legal profession was slow to change. The consultation paper, which comments are invited until June 30, lays out proposals for the most fundamental changes to the legal profession this century.

The main points include a common system of education and training for all lawyers and rights of audience for all lawyers in all courts, restricted only by experience. Barristers in turn would have direct access to clients, which at present is the monopoly of solicitors.

Getty centre buys art historian's library

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

The Getty Centre for the History of Art in Los Angeles has bought the working library of Sir Ellis Waterhouse, the British art historian, who died last year. The price is believed to be about \$200,000.

Sir Ellis was the leading authority on eighteenth-century British painting, having published books on Reynolds and Gainsborough. His library is also particularly well supplied with books on the baroque period.

The Getty centre hopes to make its art library the most comprehensive in the world; the number of books it owns has increased from 40,000 to 300,000 over the past three years.

The Waterhouse library joins those of several other distinguished scholars, among them Nicolaus Pevsner, the leading authority on British domestic architecture, Douglas Cooper, the friend of Picasso and historian of cubism, and Ulrich Middeldorf, the expert on Italian art.

There has been anxiety in British heritage circles that important working papers of Sir Ellis's were going to the Getty but that is denied by Mr Nicholas Olsberg, the Getty archivist. "I do not think he was the kind of scholar who kept papers and unpublished research material," he says.

During his lifetime Sir Ellis had, however, given "a few small unpublished notebooks" to the Getty's provenance index, a long-term project for a computerized index of collectors and what they owned.

Sri Lanka troops killed by landmine

Colombo - Nine Tamil separatist guerrillas and three soldiers were killed yesterday in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, security sources said. Three soldiers were killed and three others injured in a landmine explosion at Dehiwala in the eastern province (Vijitha Yapa Weeratna).

The Sri Lanka's declaration of a security zone within a radius of 1,000 metres of military bases in the north has created problems in Jaffna town where the railway station, main bus depot, general hospital, courts, library, schools, banks and market all come within the zone.

Troops are allowed to use mortars within the zone to defend themselves, and public attendance at most of the places in the zone has dropped considerably.



President Marcos of the Philippines, who has a bandaged hand and is said to be suffering from a debilitating illness, being carried to a stage for an election campaign speech in Dagupan City.

Marcos accused of owning US property valued at £170m

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Marcos of the Philippines and his wife Imelda own at least \$250 million (£170 million) worth of property in the United States, a Congressional sub-committee has alleged, despite their repeated denials that they do not have any real estate holdings in this country.

"I think that Mr and Mrs Marcos are now in the world class of corrupt national leaders," Representative Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House foreign affairs sub-committee on Asian and Pacific affairs, said on television.

"I personally have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the President and first lady of the Philippines have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in real estate in New York City and, to some extent, elsewhere throughout the country."

A panel of sub-committee investigators found that Mr Rolando Gapud, a Manila banker said to handle President

Free Shagari say law panel

Lagos (Reuters) - A special judicial panel has recommended the release from detention of the former Nigerian President, Shehu Shagari, and his deputy, Alex Ekwueme.

The two men have been held without charges since General Muhammad Buhari overthrew their government two years ago.

Copters collide

Markedwiz, West Germany (AP) - Two US military helicopters collided in mid-air over northern Bavaria during preparations for Nato's winter manoeuvres, killing one soldier and injuring four others on board.

Fiery farmers

Perpignan (Reuters) - About 100 French farmers set off five wagonloads of lettuce and tomatoes in protest at falling vegetable prices.

Hotel death

Geneva (AFP) - A young Austrian who refused to pay his 400 franc hotel bill was shot dead when he produced a non-lethal alarm pistol in a scuffle with police.

Whale tragedy

Christchurch, New Zealand (AP) - A school of 270 pilot whales died or were shot after a beaching in the remote Chatham Islands, 435 miles east of New Zealand.

49 killed in bus

Bombay (AP) - A crowded passenger bus fell into a ditch while making a sharp turn, killing 49 people and injuring seven others.

Marlin catch

Wellington (Reuters) - Big-game fisherman Bill Boniface claimed a world record after catching a 49lb striped marlin off New Zealand's far north coast. He had been trying for a striped marlin for 15 years.

Pay demand

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - A Malaysian fisherman, aged 67, says he is claiming 3,000 ringgit (about £900) from Japan for forced labour on the Death Railway in Thailand in the Second World War.

Chad amnesty

Abidjan, Ivory Coast (AP) - The Government of Chad will release all political prisoners today, Chad radio announced, but no figure was given.

Hanoi 'not holding PoWs'

HANOI (AP) - Vietnam told a US Congressional delegation yesterday it hoped to turn over "many more" remains next month of Americans still missing from the Vietnam War.

The Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Hoang Bich Son, also repeatedly assured two senators and two congressmen that there were absolutely no living Americans under Vietnamese control.

The delegation spent more than three hours with Mr Son yesterday on what its leader,

Opinion poll boosts French Socialists

Paris

Fortified by the latest opinion poll which gives the Socialists 30 per cent support, President Mitterrand helped to get the Socialist electoral campaign off to a flying start last night. In the presence of M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, he addressed an invited audience of more than 10,000 people in the working-class Rouen suburb of Grand-Quilly, where M Fabius is Deputy Mayor.

Mitterrand is only due to address one other mass meeting during the campaign, next Friday in Lille, the chief of his first Prime Minister, M Pierre Mauroy. He has however, already made clear that he

Manila diplomat quits to work for Aquino

From Paul Roudledge, Manila

President Marcos yesterday suffered another embarrassing political defection from the ruling family when a ranking diplomat quit his post in Brussels to work for the opposition.

Norberto Romualdez, aged 46, nephew of the first lady Mrs Imelda Romualdez Marcos, said: "Now that Cory Aquino is our candidate, I have decided to join the millions of evidently disgruntled Filipinos."

He made his announcement at a press conference hosted by Mr Agapito "Butz" Aquino, brother-in-law of the opposition contender to unseat President Marcos in the February 7 presidential election.

Mr Romualdez, commercial councillor of the Philippine Embassy in representative in Europe, is the second such family defection. Mrs Leticia Shanana, a cousin of the President, also resigned a diplomatic post at the UN to

Hong Kong anger at UK immigration stance

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Public figures and other concerned people in Hong Kong have denounced the House of Commons debate on immigration, calling it unacceptable and unethical.

Miss Lydia Dunn, the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council, said she and her colleagues were "profoundly disappointed about the British Government's attitude" because it had "failed to discharge its moral responsibility" towards Hong Kong people.

The territory is to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The council, including official members recently called on Britain to grant the right of access to the UK, not necessarily for settlement there, to some 6,000 people of Indian origin and 4,000 members of other ethnic minorities, and former prisoners of war who had fought the Japanese in 1941.

Under proposed changes in Hong Kong citizenship, the new British National (Overseas) passport would not bestow such a right, and could be passed down only to the third generation, leaving great-grand-

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M Claude Cheysson, EEC Commissioner for North-South relations, listening hard at a press conference in Mexico City.

Christie's sued over Fabergé gold egg

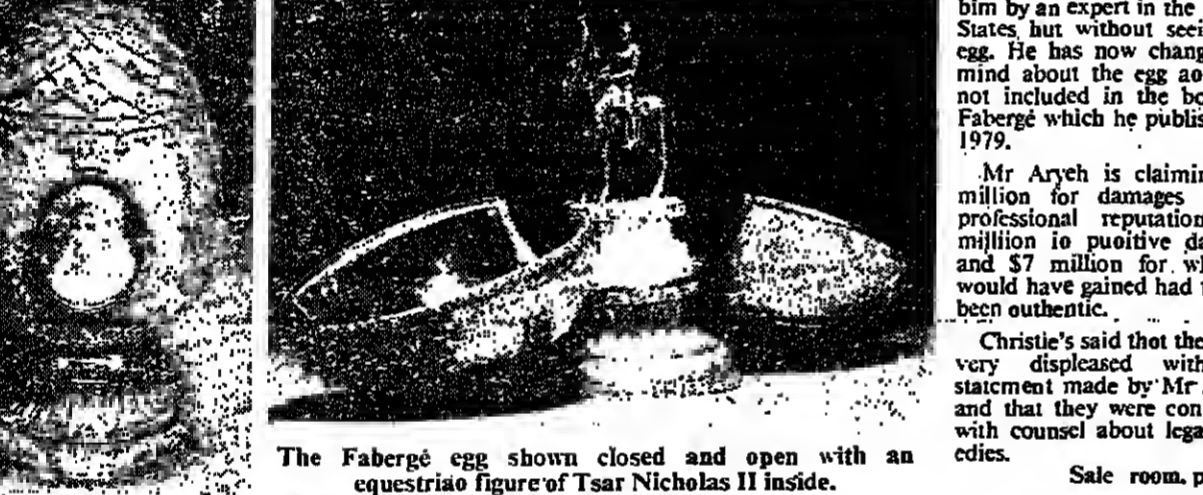
By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Mr Eskander Aryeh, a real estate millionaire, of Great Neck, Long Island, United States, has filed a \$37 million (£25 million) suit against Christie's in New York. The dispute centres on a Fabergé gold, enamel and diamond Easter egg.

If the egg was made for the Russian imperial family, as stated in Christie's catalogue for the April 1977 sale at which Mr Aryeh bought the egg, it is worth about \$1.5 million. If it was not, it might be worth some \$50,000.

Mr Aryeh consigned the egg to Christie's for sale last autumn. It was to be included in their auction of October 16 and was accorded two pages of cataloguing and three colour photographs. It was said to be an imperial egg commissioned by Nicholas II in 1913.

The egg was withdrawn from the auction after representations from two expert dealers, Mr Kenneth Snowman of Wariski in London and Mr



The Fabergé egg shown closed and open with an equestrian figure of Tsar Nicholas II inside.

Parliament January 17 1986 Backbench Bills

Coordinating services for the disabled

COMMONS

A Labour MP's Bill to improve the effectiveness and coordination of services for mentally and physically handicapped and mentally ill people had its first reading in the Commons yesterday.

The Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Bill, moved by Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands, West, Lab) was later read a second time. He explained that the Bill would give disabled people a right to have a full say in decisions concerning them.

He said the Bill further recognized that the disabled were uniquely qualified to contribute to determining their needs and that they deserved an untapped resource for society having great potential, not only for individual achievement, but for the enrichment of the whole of society.

Mr John Hanan (Exeter, C), a sponsor of the Bill, said it would streamline much of the bureaucracy in assessing the needs of disabled people. It would help to ensure that resources were directed to where they were needed and at the proper time. It would encourage forward planning of services.

Mr Alfred Morris, Opposition spokesman on the disabled, said he pledged the Opposition's full support for the aims of the Bill. The single most important aim of the Bill was to give disabled people a much higher say in the making of decisions that crucially affected their own lives. The minister should give full support for its provisions and strengthen the Bill. The disabled insisted with justification they had been pushed to the back of the longest queues in Britain, for jobs and homes, and of being the victims of some of this Government's unkindest cuts of all. Failure to provide adequate community care involved higher costs for the community in the long run. The early intervention this Bill proposed would, in the view of many experts, actually save resources.

I most warmly congratulate (he said) *The Times* newspaper and, in particular, Marjorie Wallace, for her superb series of articles on schizophrenia for which the rightly deserved a major journalistic award.

In a powerful leading article on December 19, *The Times* put forward some important questions to the Government of which deserve the minister's attention. I ask him to respond to that leader and to the eloquent message of the articles by Marjorie Wallace. I hope also that he will acknowledge the relevance of this Bill to many of the issues that were raised.

In its leading article of December 19 *The Times* said: "The policy of making care in the community available is the right one. It is the execution which is proving weak."

I sought a closing of the gap, as this Bill did, between present and practice and - under the very apt heading "Ease a Tragedy, Stop a Scandal" - it challenged the

Marriage without a word being said

The Marriage (Wales) Bill, proposed by Mr Donald Coleman (North, Lab), passed all its stages in the Commons without a word of debate. The Bill brings the Church in Wales, part of the Anglican Church, into line with the Church of England in one respect.

When an incumbent has several parishes, he may not hold services in every church each Sunday, which makes it difficult to have the banns of marriage read, according to law, in the same parish church on three successive Sundays.

The Bill, when passed by the Lords also, will enable a Bishop to authorize banns to be read wherever the incumbent is holding services.

The Cornish Tissue Bill, to permit removal of eye or parts of eyes from dead bodies for research for therapeutic purposes by other than qualified doctors, subject to certain safeguards, was given an unopposed second reading.

An instruction to the committee which will consider the Bill, that it extend the Bill to the removal of eyes for medical education or research, was also agreed to.

The Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Bill to reform the law on consequences of birth out of wedlock in Scotland was read a second time.

Background of those in positions of trust

There should be a statutory obligation on the disclosure of criminal records of people who were seeking positions of trust working with the young and vulnerable adults, Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said when moving the second reading of his Criminal Records Bill. However, his Bill was talked out.

Mr Cormack said there was a problem of people with previous criminal convictions who had obtained and assaulted the weak, the elderly and especially little children, and had subsequently been able to obtain positions of trust.

A modest measure like this would

Backbench Bills

Government to recognize both the urgency and compelling importance of ensuring that people with schizophrenia, like other victims of mental illness, received the right help in the right place and at the right time.

It was worthy of the attention of everyone in positions of responsibility for the mentally ill.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said the general philosophy which inspired the Bill was, by and large, wholly in line with Government thinking on services for disabled people. The general principles the Bill sought to enshrine were ones which, for the most part, the Government would wish to endorse.

Mr Clarke had shown him an early draft of the Bill and had incorporated some of the changes then suggested, but those changes did not go far enough and further substantial changes would be needed before the Bill would become a workable measure which the Government could support.

One objection to the Bill was that it must put pressure on local authorities to concentrate their resources on one kind of client rather than another.

Physically and mentally handicapped people were priority groups for Government policies but every extra pound local authorities spent on them could be a pound less for other groups, like the elderly and frail or children at risk.

Local authorities must have the right to order their own priorities within the broad framework prescribed from the centre. The Bill would be read a second time.

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Flying Dutchman space shuttle kept in orbit for another day

From Moshin Ali, Washington

Space shuttle Columbia's return to earth was again postponed for another 24 hours yesterday because of rain over the Kennedy Space Centre landing site in Florida.

Ground controllers ordered the spaceship and its frustrated crew of seven, who are now being likened to the Flying Dutchman, to continue orbiting the Earth until early today. The controllers will then decide whether the ageing 100-ton spacecraft can land at the Kennedy Centre or be diverted to Edwards Air Force Base, California. The weather forecast at Cape Canaveral for this morning is poor.

Columbia, which suffered a record seven take-off postponements in one month because of mechanical and weather problems, was first due to land on Thursday, but a low cloud ceiling ruled this out.

The crew, which includes Congressman Bill Nelson, is

taking advantage of the extra days in space to reactivate some of its medical, biological and astronomy experiments.

The astronauts have failed so far to take close-up photographs of Halley's Comet because of trouble with the image intensifier of their special camera. But they successfully launched a \$50 million (£34.7 million) telecommunications satellite on Sunday, soon after blast-off.

Nasa officials want to maintain the tight schedule of 15 shuttle missions this year, and still hope to launch Columbia again on March 6. Such a mission would match those of two unmanned Soviet and one West European spacecraft studying Halley's Comet.

But if Columbia has to land in California today the take-off may have to be postponed for several days. Six days would be lost in giving the shuttle a piggy-back ride on another plane back to Florida.



Members of a special Malta police squad escorting Omar Muhammad Ali Rezak to court, where he faces charges of murdering an American and an Israeli in the hijacking of an Egypt Air flight last November.

EEC reform package faces more delay

From Richard Owen, Brussels

EEC officials expressed relief yesterday following the reluctant and qualified approval given this week by the European Parliament to the package of reforms agreed at the last EEC summit in Luxembourg.

But the reforms still have to be ratified by national parliaments and officials say it is almost certain that European foreign ministers will be unable to sign the reform package when they meet in Luxembourg in 10

days time. "It looks as if the ceremony will be postponed," one official said with regret.

The vote at Strasbourg late on Thursday means that the Italian Parliament, which had made its own approval of the package conditional on the European Parliament's view, will almost certainly ratify the reforms.

The only country blocking the way is Denmark, where the Government has said it will hold a referendum on the Luxembourg reforms. Denmark

could even leave the EEC if the referendum result is negative.

The Danish position, reflecting rising anti-EEC feeling there, is that the reforms go too far. The Italians argued that they did not go far enough, a view strongly shared by European MPs at Strasbourg.

The reform package maps out the shape of the Community of 12 for the 1990s, with a completed internal market by 1992, majority voting by the Council of Ministers and the

creation of a Europe without frontiers.

But the committee finally recommended a resolution accepting the Luxembourg reforms in order to "exploit the possibilities offered to the utmost limit" with the aim of achieving a "genuine political and economic union".

The resolution was passed by 206 votes to 63 after a powerful plea from Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister and current President of the Council of Ministers.

Spaceship finds new moons of Uranus

New York (NYT) - The cameras of the Voyager 2 spacecraft have detected six more small moons orbiting Uranus, doubling to 12 the number of satellites known to be around the distant planet, space agency scientists reported.

The discovery raised speculation that Uranus might have as many as 30 moons, more than any of the other planets. Saturn has at least 20. Scientists said they would not be surprised if Voyager 2, in its close encounter with Uranus on Friday, identified at least 18 even smaller satellites embedded in the nine known rings of dark particles circling the planet.

The unmanned spacecraft is speeding in for the first close-up examination of the seventh planet in the solar system. Late last month, the craft detected the first of the additional moons, a 45-mile-wide object between the planet's dark rings of particles and the innermost of the previously known five moons.

From January 3 to January 13, the craft's cameras transmitted 15 long-exposure images revealing the six additional moons.

In an announcement of the discovery, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California, which is controlling the mission for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said the six satellites were all smaller

bodies and closer to Uranus than the object found last month. The largest one is estimated to be 30 miles in diameter. Two others are 25 miles wide, and the remaining three are 20 miles wide. The one discovered last month is believed to be 45 miles wide.

Small as they are, these are not the smallest moons in the solar system. The two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, are irregularly shaped objects with mean diameters of 14 miles and 10 miles respectively.

The distance of the moons from the centre of Uranus ranges from 46,700 miles to 38,370 miles. Uranus is 31,800 miles in diameter. The shape and composition of the presumably icy objects may be determined by Voyager's close-up observations.

Mr Ellis Miner, deputy chief scientist for the Voyager project, said the clustering of the small moons in the same region indicated that they might be fragments of a larger satellite that disintegrated.

Before Voyager's explorations, the planet's only known moons, based on ground-based observations, were Miranda, 310 miles wide; Ariel, 825 miles; Umbriel, 690 miles; Titania, 995 miles; and Oberon, 1,010 miles. The newly-discovered moons have yet to receive official names from the International Astronomical Union.

Monster in Soviet lake is just mud

Moscow - A team of experts from the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences claims to have scientifically disproved the existence of a mysterious marine beast in the depths of Lake Kol-Kol.

For many years there have been reports from witnesses of sightings of a "dinosaur-like" creature about 20 yards in length and emitting loud trumpeting sounds appearing above the surface.

Reporting from the town of Alma Ata, Kazakh, has disclosed that an expedition mounted by members of the academy's Institute of Evolutionary Morphology and Ecology of Animals has discovered a natural explanation.

According to the researchers, the deep lake is connected with underground cavities by mud-covered cracks. When the mud is washed away and water rushes down, large whirlpools appear. And if air is sucked in as well, the lake starts "singing".

Dhaka paper leaves blank space

Dhaka - A leading opposition newspaper in Bangladesh kept part of its front page blank yesterday in protest against curbs on reports critical of President Ershad (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The Bengali language daily *Banglar Bani* told readers it was unable to publish a report of a rally in the city on Thursday, organized by the Fifteen-Party Alliance, because of the curbs.

The rally criticized General Ershad for banning the Awami League government formed in 1972 after Bangladesh's secession from Pakistan. On January 12 the president told a public meeting that the league had no right to form a government alone as other political parties also took part in the independence war of 1971.

The league's chief and leader of the Fifteen-Party Alliance, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, called on General Ershad at the rally to apologize publicly and asked the military government to resign.

Police swoop breaks up Polish peace meeting

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish security police yesterday detained two leading dissidents in a new attempt to block links between the political opposition and a world peace congress being staged in Warsaw.

Mr Jack Kuron and Mr Janusz Ozoyzkiwicz both advisers to Solidarity were held after a dramatic police raid on Mr Kuron's flat on Thursday evening.

Two Austrian participants in the World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace, about 25 Western journalists, and two dissidents, Miss Barbara Malak and Miss Marta Kucharska, had gathered at the flat to hear the programme of an unofficial Polish peace movement, known as Freedom and Peace.

The group tries to help conscientious objectors, campaigns against military education in schools.

Mr Kurov was to have presented the programme and hand over a protest letter to the

congress from about 150 Polish non-conformist writers and thinkers, but the police detained him earlier in the day.

Officers burst into the flat, seized the two women dissidents, who were later freed and insisted on checking the documents of every journalist and the peace delegates.

A Norwegian intellectual, Miss Eva Norland, upset at being barred from the speakers' list for several days, has circulated a letter declaring that peace had to start with human rights. It criticized the sacking of university professors and the taking of political prisoners in Poland.

Other delegates are trying to make clandestine contact with Solidarity intellectuals. The congress speeches, however, are dominated by anguish over the American Strategic Defence Initiative and praise for the initiatives of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

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45	49	1925	3869	1208	3850	7719	2418	9625	19298	6045
50	54	1875	3759	1177	3750	7618	2365	9375	18796	5888
55	59	1800	3609	1130	3600	7218	2261	9000	18045	5653
60	64	1725	3458	1083	3450	6817	2168	8625	17293	5417
65	-	1650	3308	1036	3300	6816	2072	8250	16541	5181

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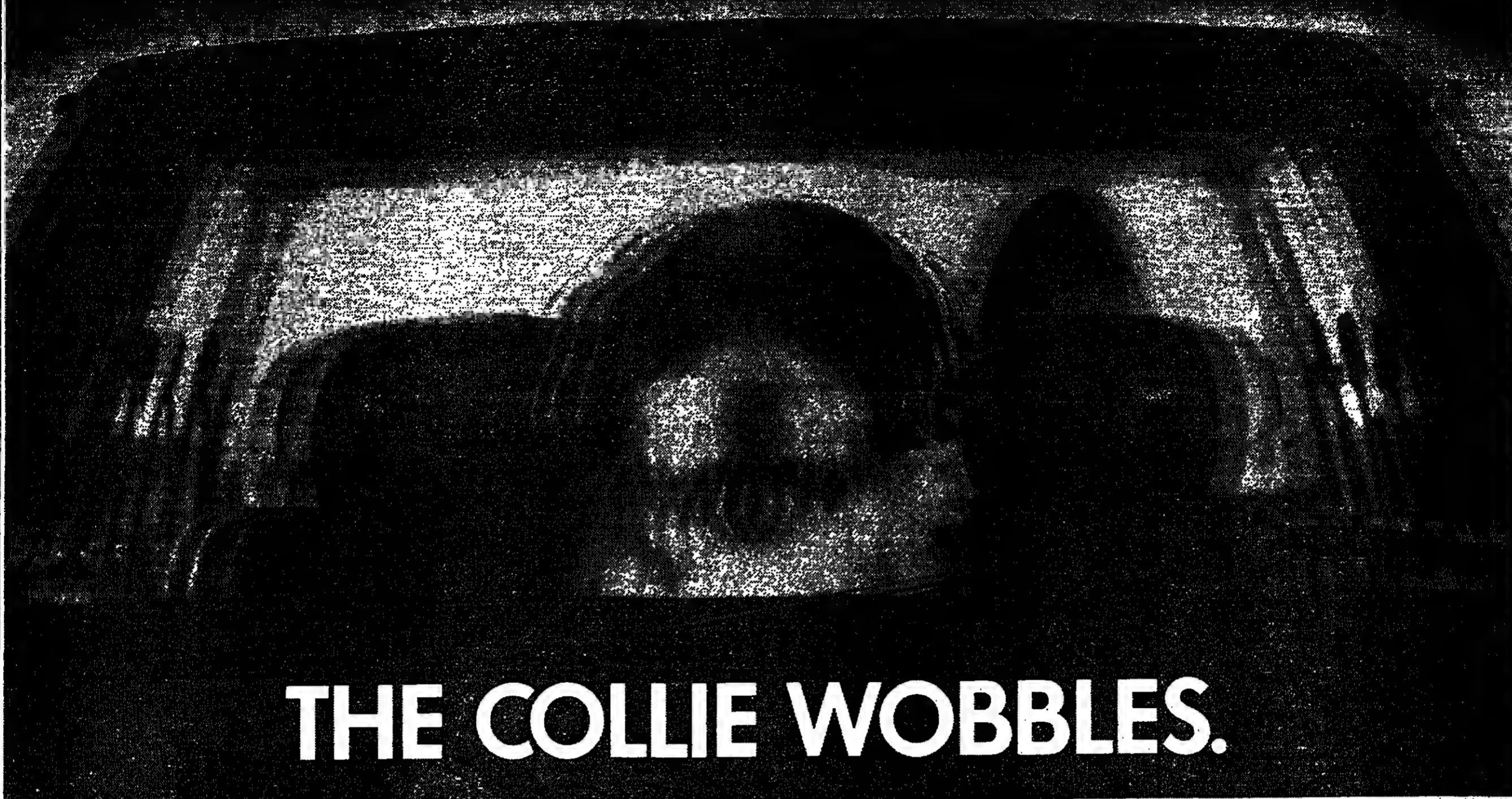
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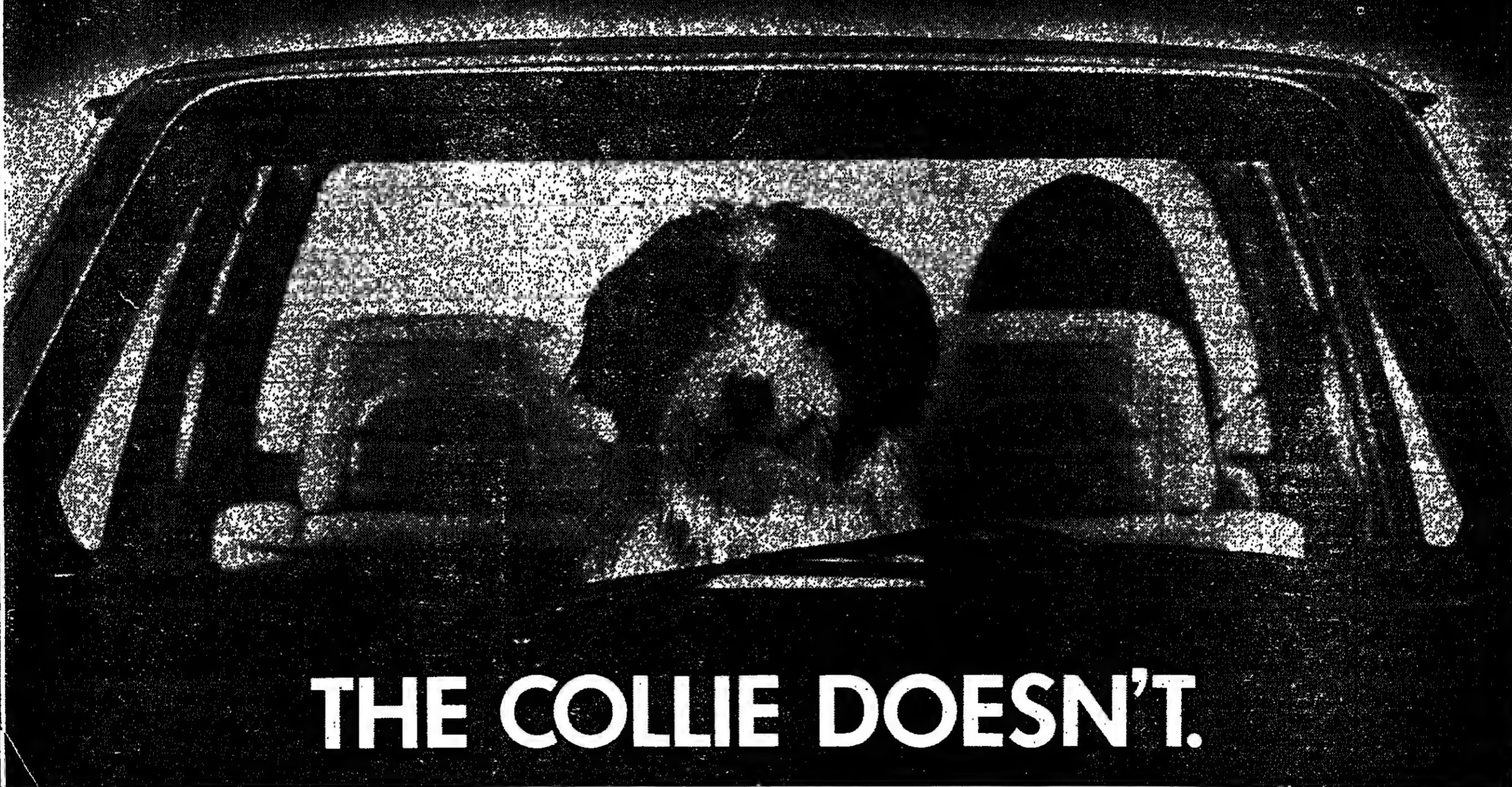
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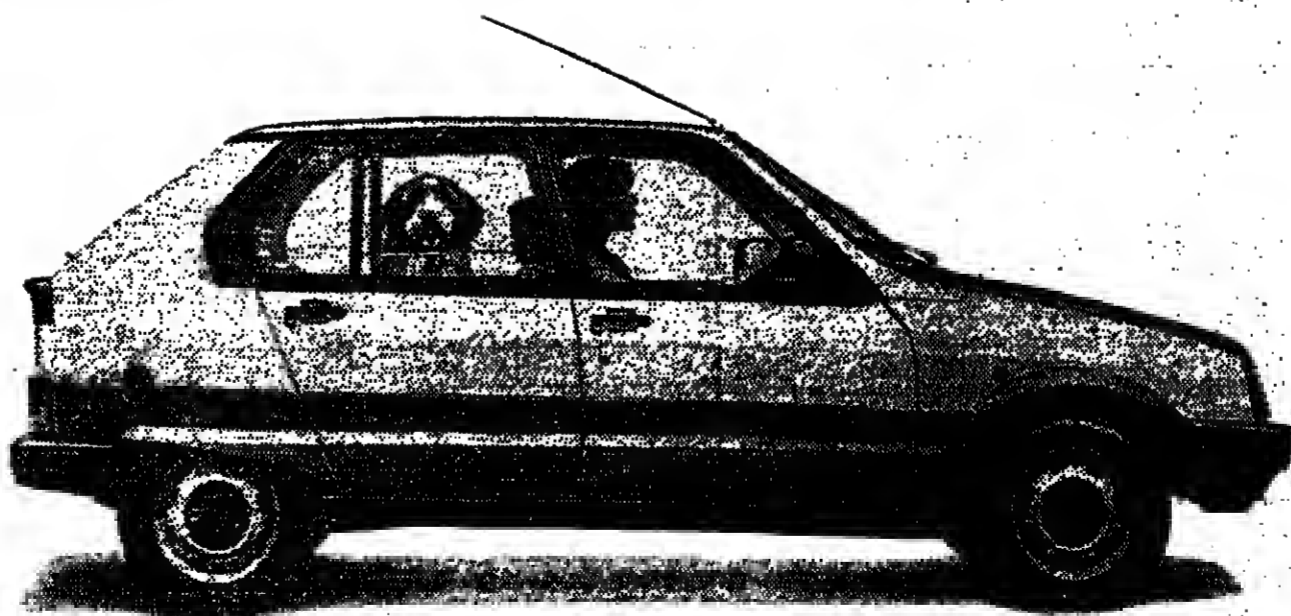


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Pins

Thousands flee Kampala in panic as shooting breaks out in suburbs

Kampala (Reuters) — Thousands of Kampala residents fled from their homes yesterday after heavily-armed government troops were seen heading for the city on foot, and gunfire was heard in the distance.

Witnesses said some of the soldiers robbed and harassed villagers near the capital, forcing them to take refuge in Kampala's Roman Catholic and Protestant cathedrals.

It was not clear who was fighting whom, but in a statement the head of state General Tito Okello, expressed "shock at unwarranted simultaneous attacks" by the guerrilla NRA (National Resistance Army) mounted early this morning on a number of government positions.

A peace agreement signed by the military government and NRA rebels in Nairobi on

December 17 has had little effect and the guerrillas have refused to co-operate with the Kampala authorities.

The gunfire was heard coming from Buloba, about 10 miles north-west of Kampala. Large numbers of government soldiers also headed into the city on roads connecting the capital with the guerrilla-held south-west, the witnesses said.

The south-west has been cut off from the rest of the country for several months and the NRA says it will not re-open the roads until security improves in Kampala.

Most shops and offices in the capital closed early because of the panic, but residents said the city centre was quiet and calm yesterday evening.

In his statement, General

Okello accused the NRA of violating the peace agreement by attacking government troops.

But the guerrillas hold the Kampala authorities responsible for hundreds of killings since the signing of the peace accord.

In a statement in Nairobi yesterday they accused the Government of continuing to import weapons in violation of the agreement. But they assured Ugandans that "the future is not as bleak as it may seem" and that the country's grave problems could be overcome.

They said the calm that prevailed in the south-west was proof of this, while in Kampala security was a constant worry, with shootings almost every night.



Druze militiamen of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party making victory signs as they cross the Chouf mountains to join Syrian-backed militias fighting forces loyal to President Gemayel

Lebanon battles flare up again

Beirut (Reuters) — Fighting flared between pro-Syrian and right-wing forces as the Christian leaders tried to limit damage to relations with Damascus caused by the overthrow of Syria's main Christian ally in Lebanon.

Witnesses said shells crashed into Christian villages near President Gemayel's home town 12 miles from Beirut and also hit the Christian eastern district of the capital.

Heavy artillery exchanges between Druze and Lebanese Army gunners also erupted around President Gemayel's palace near the Beirut suburb of Baabda, radio stations reported.

Heysel riot gets own pop song

Brussels (AP, Reuters) — A pop group called Shady Vision is trying to make the Belgian charts with a song about the Heysel stadium riots between British and Italian football fans that killed 39 people.

Called "Just a Game", the English-language song attacks the attitude of the Belgian Government and security forces. Meanwhile, the Government has eased its ban on British teams by allowing amateur clubs to play here.

Sea King crash

Delhi (Reuters) — Three crewmen of an Indian Navy helicopter are missing after a crash at sea. A Navy statement said the Sea King helicopter, made by Westland, crashed on a routine training flight.

Anti-drug drive

Bonn (Reuters) — West Germany announced a big stepping up of the war against drug trafficking, including creation of a federal narcotics division and a law permitting seizure of illegal drug profits.

Indoor volcano

Peachtree City, Georgia (AP) — A model volcano being demonstrated for an eighth-grade chemistry class here exploded injuring seven students, two critically, when their clothes caught fire.

Buoyant South Africa leans on Lesotho

Pretoria demands expulsion of ANC

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday told Lesotho it will settle for nothing less than the expulsion of the African National Congress from its territory before border relations between the two countries can revert to normal.

Mr. Neil Van Heerden, deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs, said last night after talks between the two governments that South Africa had made it very clear the "pervasive" ANC presence in Lesotho, and the resulting violence in South Africa, was the "root cause" of the border crisis.

Asked if this meant South Africa was seeking a commitment from Lesotho to "eliminate" ANC from its territory, Mr. Van Heerden said: "Yes, in effect. That is the bottom line. Since New Year's Day South Africa had imposed a severe clamp on traffic and movement across the border. Lesotho is surrounded by South Africa and depends on it almost entirely for essential supplies.

Mr. Van Heerden said both sides to the talks agreed there was an urgent need for relations to return to normal, and to set up a committee to monitor security matters between the two countries.

Gold price rise boosts confidence

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg

Economic confidence rose in South Africa yesterday after the rise in the price of gold, which accounts for more than 60 per cent of its earnings, to an 18-month high.

Tax cuts and export incentives were being forecast when the budget is tabled in March in an effort to lift the country out of the depression; both economic and moral, which it has suffered for two years.

Mr. Kent Durr, Deputy Minister of Finance, described the soaring gold price as like "soft rain after a long drought".

He said to Cape Town that the economy was "lean, trim and hungry" and well placed to take advantage of any upswing. But he cautioned: "We must be careful not to see this as a bonanza. We cannot start living with gay abandon. But the improved gold price is very important and will also be very important for reform."

As the gold price rose so did the value of the rand to more than 43 cents against the US dollar, compared with 34.6 cents shortly after President Botla's "Rubicon" speech last August when he dashed international expectations of immediate and drastic apartheid reforms.

The rand also rose against sterling from four to the pound three weeks ago to 3.26. The reserve bank has announced a cut in discount rate of one percentage point to 12 per cent and commercial banks have said they will reduce their prime rate similarly to 15.5 per cent later this month.

The Government's relief at the turn-about in South Africa's economic fortunes was reflected by Dr Gerhard du Kock, governor of the Reserve Bank, who said the economy had apparently moved into the early stages of an export-led cyclical upswing.

But he cautioned that it was starting from a low base with spending, output, sales, imports and most other economic indicators still at low levels. He also warned that the inflation rate, now at a record 16.9 per cent, was bound to accelerate again before it declined.

The Government has refused visas for a group of American clergymen invited to visit South Africa by Dr Beyers Naude, secretary general of the South African Council of Churches.

A man was killed by a mob which petrol-bombed the home of a former black councillor in Pearson, a remote sheep-farming town, in the Eastern Cape Province. Police said yesterday they arrested 15 people after using shotguns and tear gas to disperse the mob.

Madrid fear over link with Israel

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain is to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. Armed police and special sharp-shooter units were on duty at Madrid International airport, and at Spanish embassies throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and in some European capitals.

The present tension in the Middle East has heightened Spanish fears that groups, possibly backed by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, could make attacks, though it is hoping President Assad of Syria will be a moderating influence.

Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, Spain's Foreign Minister, said: "We sincerely believe Spain can help peace in the Middle East by being represented to both places," referring to the Arab capitals and Tel Aviv.

But his remarks were quickly challenged by the Palestine Liberation Organization representatives in Madrid. Recognition would not facilitate peace, he said, but only reinforce aggressive Israeli policies.

The Foreign Minister refused yesterday to link recognition with the widely-anticipated upgrading of the PLO office here.

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Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, has thus kept a promise given to a fellow member of the Socialist International, Mr Shimon Peres, his Israeli counterpart. They are to meet tomorrow in The Hague to map out relations.

Diplomatic notes were exchanged yesterday by Spanish and Israeli foreign ministry officials in The Hague. They cover the opening of embassies in Tel Aviv and Madrid, and make clear that the status of Spain's existing consulate in the part of Jerusalem occupied since 1967 will not be changed.

Spain was braced yesterday for possible reprisal attacks by radical Arab terrorist groups.

Northern islands dispute Tokyo presses for end to deadlock

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Soviet Union went into an extra session of negotiations last night in an attempt to break a deadlock over the northern islands of Etorfu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habonai, which the Russians occupied at the end of the Second World War.

One Japanese Foreign Ministry official described the issue of the four disputed islands as a "cancer" that had to be removed.

The extra session appeared to have heightened chances that the two sides would be able to issue a communiqué including language on the islands which the Japanese side could accept.

Official negotiators, who continued after the ministers concluded their discussions, broke off last night without final agreement. If necessary, the

New York judge clears subway vigilante

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Charges of attempted murder against Bernhard Goetz, who became a popular hero for shooting four youths on the New York subway, have been withdrawn on a judge's orders.

But Mr Goetz, who is 38, may yet have to face the charges. The judge said that the case can go before another grand jury which will decide on the attempted murder issue. The Manhattan District Attorney also has the option of appealing against the judge's decision.

Mr Goetz shot the youths 13 months ago. He said they had demanded money. None of the youths was killed, but one was paralysed.

The incident made Mr Goetz a hero for many New Yorkers who are weary of crime



Shamir hails a new era

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel sees diplomatic recognition by Spain as putting an end to a glaring anomaly which has precluded normal relations with a country having the strongest historical ties with the Jewish people.

Since the death of General Franco, Israel has worked behind the scenes to start the relationship.

Israel's raid on the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Tunisia last October put a temporary end to discussions and a meeting between the two Prime Ministers.

Shamir hails a new era

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Kasparov takes Fischer path

By Raymond Keene

A disastrous episode of chess history is in imminent danger of repeating itself with Gary Kasparov's threat not to contest the return world championship match with Anatoly Karpov.

Eleven years ago the then World Champion, Bobby Fischer — according to many experts the greatest genius the game had known until that time — became embroiled in a regulations dispute with FIDE (World Chess Federation) officials. After immense delays, diplomatic manoeuvres and an extraordinary FIDE Congress, Fischer resigned the title, abandoned chess and has not played a single public game since then. On April 24, 1975, his would-be opponent, Karpov of the Soviet Union, was crowned world champion without a move being played across the chessboard.

Now Gary Kasparov, the young Soviet superstar, whose brilliant sacrificial games have won him wide recognition as a chess genius, is similarly entangled. After 72 games played in two matches over a total of seven months during 1984 and 1985, Kasparov finally overcame Karpov's resistance, on November 9 last year Kasparov won the twenty-fourth and final game of their second match, to be crowned the youngest world champion. But Kasparov was faced with the prospect of Karpov's almost immediate right to a revenge match. FIDE had stipulated that his should take place within three months of his coronation, yet no previous champion had ever been forced to defend his title in less than a year.

Indeed, Kasparov can justly complain that FIDE president, Mr Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines, abruptly terminated the first match on February 15, 1985, when Karpov was ahead but had lost two consecutive games and to the spot-observers appeared to be on the point of collapse.

For their first match Karpov had the right to revenge should he lose, but no draw odds in his favour (ie, Karpov kept the title if the match was drawn 12-12). Both privileges were handed to him by FIDE for the second contest.

Kasparov is now reluctant to play again so soon after his victory last November. A statement is due from him over the weekend which he will make directly to *The Times*, assuming communication with Baku does not collapse entirely.

Mali peace handshake

Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast (Reuters) — The leaders of Burkina Faso and Mali smiled broadly, shook hands and hugged each other here yesterday as they met for the first time since their two countries fought a brief but bloody border war last month.

The historic handshake between Captain Thomas Sankara, Burkina Faso's revolutionary leader, and General Moussa Traoré of Mali, was witnessed by the leaders of six other West African nations.

President Sankara and Traoré were to meet six later in the day to try to find a solution to the longstanding Mali-Burkina Faso border dispute.

The summit of the Non-Ag-

gression and Defence pact was commemorated by President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast. Both Burkina Faso and Mali are members of the pact which was set up nine years ago by member countries of the Economic Community of West Africa and Togo.

The war, which broke out on Christmas Day after weeks of border tension, brought the little known pact into the limelight. It passed its first main test when it mediated a ceasefire.

The swift intervention of the pact's member states spearheaded by the Ivorian leader, overshadowed a rival truce sponsored by Libya and Nigeria. Libya has close ties with Burkina Faso.

Royal appeal

Brussels (Reuters) — King Baudouin of Belgium was reported to have appealed personally to Zaire. President Mobutu to pardon a Flemish Socialist political activist, Ronald van den Broegert, for 10 years in Kinshasa for alleged subversion.

Rebels hit Nicaragua helicopters

Managua (AFP) — Two Nicaraguan Air Force helicopters were hit by rebel fire from Costa Rican territory on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Soviet-made Mi8 helicopters, patrolling near Nicaragua's southern frontier, were damaged but landed safely, a spokeswoman said. A pilot and co-pilot were taken to hospital.

Recent press reports here have told of a concentration of rebel forces along the southern border strip, from which the leftist government last year drove out rebel troops of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde).

Last November, US-backed guerrillas in the north used a Sam7 missile to shoot down an Mi8 helicopter.

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Pinstripe authors cast off their clichés

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Norman Mailer has been looking like a panda all week. He has been wearing a dark suit, white hair and two lovely black eyes. A lot of people hoped secretly that he had lived up to the international PEN writers' congress and lived up to his image by bopping somebody.

It seemed at one stage that he might bluff Günter Grass, and there was a chance that he would be staged by women writers who threatened they would "bodily" take over the congress platform.

The mundane truth is, however, that Mr Mailer, who at 62 is still a bit of a lad, and perhaps has been seeing too much Rocky, received his chiners from a sparring partner in a local gym.

Because all writers love an excuse not to write, the 48th PEN congress, attended by 700

moving fingers, has effectively set back global production of great literature by one glorious week. During this time the writers have put the world to rights, discussing censorship and such esoteric stuff as imagination and utopia. A lot of chaps have wandered off the point and quite a few have wandered to the bar. Like any good established PEN meet is where hair is let down.

Apropos of hair, the congress has been disappointingly short on clichéd images. Very few writers here have long hair over the collar and, with the exception of one or two splendid white ones, there is a distinct paucity of writerly beards. Floppy bow ties are as rare as butterflies in Alaska and velvet suits rarer.

The traditional writers' corduroy seems to be an endangered species, though the

brown corduroy banner was proudly worn by Günter Grass, the very image of a great writer. He also wore the most ill-tailored suit at the congress, a blue creation that would be a hanging offence in Savile Row.

Sartorially, he stood in striking contrast to Gay Talese who was certainly the best-dressed author, looking impossibly suave. Allen Ginsberg was exciting in scarlet shirt and flashing silver tie, and there was a French fellow in a bomber jacket, a zut suit.

But on the whole the writers were disappointingly and conventionally well-togged: drab rows of the sort of pinstriped suits favoured by bankers and gangsters, though, as a Bahama touch, some wore suede shoes and looked like auctioneers.

Looking so ordinary, writers make life harder for the

American Immigration Service looking for subversives to ban under the notorious McCarran-Walter Act.

The law was part of the background to the great row of the week, The SHA affair. Some of the writers were furious that the Secretary of State was hauled in to the opening ceremony, partly because he heads the Government department that applies the banning law.

Many writers became so fed up with the row that they banned mention of the Secretary of State's name. Hence SHA.

There was a lot of lovely publicity and, apart from rowing, talking and drinking, the world's fictioneers elected the popular Englishman, Francis King, as their international president.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Anne, Senior Warden of the Cermen's Company, will attend the court meeting, Master's reception and court luncheon at Clothworkers' Hall on January 30.

Venture (Sunderland) Centre at St Thomas Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, on February 5.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, will host a reception at Buckingham Palace on February 13 for the thirtieth Commonwealth Games Organizing Committee's appeal fund.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr. T. Q. Baigrie and Miss F. L. Mason. The engagement is announced between Thomas Quentin, youngest son of Dr and Mrs R. D. M. Baigrie, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Fiona Louise, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J. L. Mason, of Cheshire.

Mr. T. P. D. Maile and Miss W. T. A. Wan Daud. The engagement is announced between Timothy, youngest son of Dr and Mrs W. E. D. Maile, of Ensworth, Hampshire, and Tina, eldest daughter of the late Dr and Mrs R. W. Daud, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mr. M. W. Blount and Miss J. E. Verrall. The engagement is announced between Mark Walston, only son of the Rev Ronald and Mrs Blount, of Basingstoke, and Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Verrall, of Tooting, London.

Mr. T. R. A. King and Miss B. T. Goodman. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Bonsall King, of Allerton, Liverpool, and Bernadette, daughter of Mrs Monica Frances Goodman, of Exeter, Devon.

Mr. P. Caplan and Miss A. E. Maher. The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Caplan, of Derbyshire, and Annabelle Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Daniel Maher, of Froggat Edge, Derbyshire.

Mr. T. R. A. King and Miss B. T. Goodman. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Bonsall King, of Allerton, Liverpool, and Bernadette, daughter of Mrs Monica Frances Goodman, of Exeter, Devon.

Mayor F. N. L. Chapman and Dr J. M. Spence. The engagement is announced between Frank Nathan Leslie Chapman, of Thorne, Painswick, and Jennifer Margaret Spence, of Valley Way, Warwick.

Dr I. S. Miller and Dr C. C. Donald. The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Dr and Mrs Lindsay Miller, of Redburn, Hertfordshire, and Carly, daughter of Mrs Jane Donald, of Milngavie, Glasgow.

Mr. E. Dickinson and Miss C. Deoby. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Michael Dickinson, of Brampton, Hampshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. N. Deoby, of Lincoln.

Mr. M. A. Morgan and Miss A. Willcocks. The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Morgan, of Edinburgh, and Ann, only daughter of Mr John Willcocks, of Weston, Hampshire, and Mrs Lis Willcocks, of Cheddar, Somerset.

Mr. M. J. Edwards and Miss F. J. Moore. The engagement is announced between Martin John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. D. Edwards, of Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall, and Fiona Jane, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs K. Moore, of St Jobo's Cross Farm, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Mr. M. A. Morgan and Miss A. Willcocks. The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Morgan, of Edinburgh, and Ann, only daughter of Mr John Willcocks, of Weston, Hampshire, and Mrs Lis Willcocks, of Cheddar, Somerset.

Mr. A. Glebocki and Miss J. Christie. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs C. Glebocki, of Redford Loan, Edinburg, and Josephine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan F. Christie, of Rossie Ochil, Forgan-denny, Perthshire.

Mr. H. S. Roberts and Miss A. van Gorkom. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr H. S. Roberts, of Almondbury, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and Annemarie, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. van Gorkom, of Corey, Ludlow, Shropshire.

Mr. N. C. Hely-Hutchinson and Miss K. J. Connolly. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Hely-Hutchinson, of London, SW1, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Connolly, of Knockholt, Kent.

Mr. J. A. Pearce and Miss L. J. Bowden. The marriage took place quietly in London on Friday, January 17, between Mr John Pearce, of Hampstead, London, and Miss Lynne Bowden, of Sandton, South Africa.

PHILIPS BRAND NEW 1986 MODEL. VERSATILE Household Electric Space Heater NOW £11.75 FROM ONLY £11.75 etc. Includes images of the heater and its components.

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Margaret Hood Woman's unique bond with God

The vivid biblical images of wind, earthquake and fire appropriately describe the debate in the Anglican church on the ordination of women.

Now what I have called mothering is not only her gift to her child but also her unique relationship with creation and with God. Since the incarnation, this mothering, which binds woman so inextricably to creation, has been given a new significance and meaning.

It does not make her equal with men, nor for that matter, superior to men, but it establishes her difference from them. It establishes her uniqueness. A Christian woman offers back to God the gift he gave her in the vocation of Christian motherhood.

Women can, of course, choose to reject their essential nature, but they cannot remove it. They can bring it to its fullest expression and fulfillment by having a child. They are also free to decide not to bring it to fulfillment.

Modern feminism, which gives women a new status and an equality with men, will in the end deny them the freedom they seek. In contrast, Christian feminism establishes women's fundamental significance and it leaves her free.

I firmly believe that this Christian feminism is a fundamental idea that lies behind the debate about the ordination of women. They are the most important reasons why, a woman, can never accept a woman as a priest.

University news

Professor John Rohl, professor of history in the school of European studies at Sussex University, who has been elected to a fellowship at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich for the academic year 1986-87.

Services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Epiphany. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, 9.15 AM. The Eucharist will be celebrated by the Rev Canon John Gifford.

\$93,500 for chalk drawing

A red chalk drawing of a "Woman gazing into a mirror" by Giovanni Agostino da Lodi, a follower of Leonardo, was sold by Sotheby's in New York on Thursday for \$93,500.

MR JULIUS WEITZNER

Julius Weitzner, who died on January 14 at the age of 90, was the most colourful and courageous art dealer of the post-war period in London.

Birthdays

TODAY: Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 65; Dr David Bellamy, 53; Lord Bowden, 71; Mr Raymond Briggs, 52; Mr Arnold Canwell, 80; Mr A. S. Shanks, 80; Mr J. H. G. Smith, 71; Mr Cary Grant, 82; Sir William Harding, 59; Sir James Henderson, 85; Mr David Howell, 50; Mr Edward James, 69; Dame Jennifer Jenkins, 65; Mr Danny Kaye, 73; Sir Godfrey La Queue, QC, 62; Air Marshal Sir Leslie Mavor, 70; Sir Peter Preston, 64; Lord Seabroth, 77; Mr Dick Southwood, 80; Sir Michael Stewart, 75; Sir Nigel Strutt, 70; Sir Walter Verco, 79; Sir Ralph Verney, 71; Sir Clive Whitmore, 51.

Church news

The Rev N. Taylor, Chaplain and senior lecturer in the Faculty of Theology, University of York.

Latest appointments

Sir David Miles to be Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, supervising the Middle East Department and the Near East and North Africa Department.

Schools

Bristol Grammar School. Term began on Tuesday, January 14. The joint entrance examination at 11-plus for boys and girls will be on Saturday, February 1, and 13-15 on Sunday, February 22.

Marketors' Company

Mr C. Austin Nunn, outgoing Master of the Marketors' Company, presented the first marketing award to Mr Kevin M. Blake at the company's installation ceremony held on Thursday at Stuttons' Hall.

Retirements

The Rev W. R. Claring, priest-in-charge, St Andrew's Church, Woking, Surrey, has retired to his home in Woking.

Science report

Satellite to test Big Bang theory. The most ambitious attempt to test the theory that the universe was once squeezed into a volume the size of a table tennis ball is being prepared.

Reception

HM Government. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mrs Edwards were hosts at a reception held at the Welsh Office, Cardiff, yesterday to mark the retirement of Sir Cennydd Treharne as Lord-Lieutenant of the counties of Mid, South and West Glamorgan.

Dinners

Heythrop College. The Rev Brendan Callaghan, SJ, Principal of Heythrop College, London University, gave a dinner last night at the Royal Society of Medicine to mark the retirement of the Rev James Callaghan, SJ, founding registrar and secretary of the college.

OBITUARY MR DONOVAN ROSEVEAR

Studies of West African fauna

Mr Donovan Rosevear, CBE, who died yesterday at the age of 85, served for thirty years in the Nigerian forestry service, becoming Inspector-General of Forests in 1951. During this period he became an authority on the fauna of West Africa and published a number of works on the classification and distribution of the mammals of the region.

MR JULIUS WEITZNER

Julius Weitzner, who died on January 14 at the age of 90, was the most colourful and courageous art dealer of the post-war period in London.

MR BRIAN LAWRENCE

Mr Brian Lawrence, deputy managing director of Times Newspapers Ltd, died at his home at Rickmansworth yesterday after a short illness. He was 49.

Latest wills

Mr Frederick William Brownlee, of Ballybrack, Co. Dublin, company director, left a will on January 15, 1985, valued at £1,382,421.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Barga', 'European L', 'Tax t', and 'DAVID ROBERTS R.A. THE HOLY LAND'.

THE ARTS

Dance

Bargain of the ballet

Giselle Covent Garden

Paul Hamlyn's beliefs that the good things in life should be brought to as many people as possible and that ballet is one of those good things make him dear to my heart...

any new or personal light on the character.

Tucker was at her best as the lightly-moving ghost in Act Two, but there are signs of much thought in her earlier scenes...

A dancer such as Phillip Broomhead, who overreached himself through sheer eagerness to make an effect in his short solo, leading the harvest dances...

John Percival

Concert

Circa 1500 Wignore Hall

"Circa 1500" is this chamber ensemble's name and also, unsurprisingly, a fairly precise description of its repertoire...

repertoire the singer seemed unwilling either to deliver these potentially catchy tunes with the crisp articulation which would bring them to life...

Richard Morrison

Opera

A desert of contemporary motifs



Temporary peace at the conference table: John Tomlinson as Moses and Neil Howlett (right) as Pharaoh

Moses Coliseum

The directors of Norwest Holst must find it all a little odd. For three seasons in succession they have funded shoestring productions of neglected 19th-century operas...

These are not, however, revealed at once. The producer, Keith Warner, offers a first act that is as near to biblical epic in its look as his budget will allow...

From this point one expects the plastic machine guns, the blinding lights, the police squads, the international conference table, the crowd barriers, the microphone-jammed podium and the partisan berets...

I suspect, however, that Mr Warner made no such decision, but rather that he mistook the nature of Rossini's seriousness. I see no evidence that the composer cared a scrap about "fundamental religious issues"...

It is not just that the action looks so feeble on its own terms, nor that it is in a state of permanent magnetic repulsion against the music of the 1820s...

Mr Warner directs as if movement can establish a freedom of action in

spite of the music: as witness his scenes of violence at the end of the opera. But of course it cannot. What alone can persuade us these people are free agents is their bold assumption of what the music offers them...

There are pleasures too from among the rest of the cast. Kathryn Pope sings with delightful tone and fine phrasing as Anna, and Ethna Robinson makes one relish the moments allotted to her mother Miriam...

Paul Griffiths

Radio

Glittering creatures under contract

You do not immediately associate Radio 2 or the name of Mr Hubert Gregg with the more serious programmes of the day...

producer, Phyllis Robinson, did was to tell us how she got to be like that (mother's insatiable ambition for her daughters did not help) and, more soberly, how the circumstances of her life as one of MGM's great stars did everything to keep her on the downward path...

above the law. Mr Gregg's undemanding style, pointed up the contrast between the image and the life, making this apparently lightweight programme not only affecting but shocking.

In Pleasing the Patient (Radio 4, Sunday, producer Miles Barton) Geoff Watts looked into the strange phenomenon of the placebo effect, concluding wisely that, since it is plainly there and will not go away, scientists would do well to try to understand it and to cooperate with its extraordinary healing powers...

Sherrin in Loose Ends (Radio 4, Saturday, producers Ian Garthouse, Simon Shaw and Cathie Mahoney) chatting to his former brother Alfred and to observe how the bright, slightly showbiz tones in which he conducts the rest of the programme had fallen away, much to his regret.

This was one of a series of interviews in which siblings whose paths have diverged will be brought face to face. When studio-based, however, this new venture reveals Radio 4 once again striving for the smart, the sophisticated, while turning in some booming clichés in the process...

David Wade

Long distance form: Mark Lawson finds that Everyman now has total consistency of ambition

Television films about religion have tended to be mongrel documentaries, caught between religion's aim to celebrate and affirm and journalism's wish to undermine and question.

It is eighth and ninth series, raised the heat of enthusiasm, achievement, press and audience response, by several degrees. The series now averages 3.7 million viewers - a small number - but significantly higher than that for the South Bank Show, which fills an equivalent Sunday night slot.

Everyman has achieved its higher profile by a process which its editor, Daniel Woolf, describes as "remaining true to the core of our brief, while exploring the margins. The aim is to cover a broad subject area in a variety of styles."

How this theory reaches the screen can be seen in the evolution, during the most recent series, of three types of Everyman film. The first is the traditional "God-slit" documentary about a spiritual or institutional aspect of contemporary religion; an example would be A Fairly Honourable Defeat, last year's film about the Church's work in the inner cities...

that the series' greater range of targets has left God hollering from a distance to allot time to Lennon (a drug-taking atheist) turned some commentators a suitably episcopal purple. In fact, John Lennon: A Journey in the Life argued a spiritual basis for Lennon's inner richness and sensation-chasing and established the subject as one perfectly legitimate for Everyman.

Shadavands was, I think, the best single drama of last year, making with delicacy and intelligence a point about Lewis as a "non-playing captain" in the game of love and grief, suddenly called in to bat.

Religious programming is something which television has always done more from duty than enthusiasm; doing it well was secondary to merely being seen to do it. Everyman is commendable for bringing passion and ambition to the pursuit of duty. The label "religious" has tended to be a leper's bell for schedulers, but confounding these fears a fine series has found its own large and faithful congregation.

Nicholas Shakespeare

European Law Report

Tax transfer of Community funds to national budget contrary to EEC obligations

Hurd v Jones (Inspector of Taxes) Case 44/84

Lord Justice J. Everling, acting as president and Judges K. Bahlmann, J. J. G. Bosco, T. Koopmans, D. Y. Galmot, C. Kakouris and T. O'Higgins

Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn Judgment delivered January 15

Conduct by which a member state could unilaterally interfere with the system adopted for financing the Community was contrary to the duty of genuine co-operation and assistance owed by member states to the Community and to the duty to refrain from jeopardizing the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty.

Mr Hurd, a UK national, was the administrator of the European School at Culham, Oxfordshire. The inspector of taxes made tax assessments for the years 1978/1979 and 1979/1980 in respect of the various places where the school to Mr Hurd during those years. Mr Hurd appealed against those assessments to the special commissioners for income tax.

The European Schools were set up in the various places where the situations of the European Communities were located, including, since 1978, at Culham. Their purpose was to provide schooling for the children of officials and servants of the Communities in their mother tongue.

According to the salary scale applied in their state of origin, and second, the fact that those sums were liable to tax since no exemption was provided for in UK legislation or in the Statute or the Teaching Staff Regulations. Mr Hurd claimed that the supplements paid by the European School should be exempt from national taxation by virtue of article 3 of the Act of Accession of the United Kingdom to the EEC and articles 5 and 7 of the EEC Treaty.

The special commissioners considered that their decision depended upon certain questions of interpretation of Community law and they therefore referred those questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows:

Jurisdiction The commissioners first sought to establish whether the court had jurisdiction to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of article 3 of the Act of Accession with regard to the instruments concerning the European Schools and their teaching staff.

According to article 1(3) of the Treaty of Accession the provisions concerning the powers and jurisdiction of the institutions as set out in the EEC Treaty were to apply in respect of the Treaty of Accession including the provision of the Act of Accession annexed to it.

The court therefore had the jurisdiction under article 177 to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of article 3 of the Act of Accession.

However, the United Kingdom maintained that the court might not, in interpreting that article, interpret the instruments which were covered by that article.

concerning the European Communities adopted by common agreement of the member states.

The 1957 decision which was adopted for the purposes of the implementation of the agreement on the Statute concluded in connection with the functioning of the Communities was one of the "provisions" covered by that provision. Consequently, in relation to the 1957 decision the new member states were "in the same situation as the original member states" by virtue of article 3(3).

However, article 3(3) did not attach any additional legal effect to the measures to which it applied, it was therefore intended to ensure that the new member states were subject to the same obligations as the original member states by virtue of article 3(3).

Article 5 By their second question the special commissioners asked in the first place whether article 5 of the EEC Treaty required member states to give effect to the 1957 decision and thereby whether the member states were under an obligation to exempt from domestic taxation the European supplements paid to teaching staff of the European Schools where those staff were their nationals.

As to article 5 it was to be noted that the second sentence of the first paragraph of that article imposed on member states an obligation to facilitate the achievement of the Community's tasks, while the second paragraph required member states to abstain from any measure which could jeopardize the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty.

That provision was the expression of the more general rule of genuine cooperation and assistance which was laid down in article 5 of the Treaty and which was intended to facilitate the achievement of the Community's tasks and to refrain from jeopardizing the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty.

The special commissioners further sought to establish whether the obligation under article 5 was capable of producing direct effects in the legal relations between the member states and their subjects and whether, consequently, Mr Hurd was entitled to rely on it before the courts and tribunals of the UK.

The mere fact that nationals of a member state were employed by a

of the Community institutions were impeded by a measure taken to the detriment of the member states outside the scope of the Treaties.

Under article 24(2) of the Teaching Staff Regulations the European School granted a differential allowance to compensate for the domestic taxation charged on its teachers' salaries in so far as the amount thereof exceeded the amount which would be charged under the provisions applicable to officials of the European Community.

If a member state were to tax the European supplements, the school would therefore refund the tax by means of a differential allowance, which might itself be taxed. That process could theoretically be repeated ad infinitum.

The financial burden of that process fell entirely on the Community budget since the Community had to pay for the difference between, on the one hand, the national salaries of the teachers and, on the other hand, the total budget of the European School. The financial consequences would be directly detrimental to the Community. In that way a member state could unilaterally interfere with the system adopted for financing the Community and apportioning financial burdens between the member states.

Such consequences could not be accepted. Conduct giving rise to them was contrary to the duty of genuine cooperation and assistance which member states owed the Community and which found expression in the obligation laid down in article 5 of the Treaty who, where they were employed in a school situated in another member state, had made use of their right to free movement within the Community.

That was not however, the case with regard to a teacher who was a national of a member state in which the European School in question was situated and who had not moved within the Community to take up a post with that school.

As the court had previously held, the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in article 7, together with a specific expression of that principle in article 48, could not be applied to situations which were wholly internal to a member state and which were in no way connected to any situations envisaged by Community law.

According to a consistent line of decisions of the court, a provision produced direct effect in relation to the member states and their subjects only if it was clear and unconditional and not contingent on any discretionary implementing measure.

Those requirements were not fulfilled with regard to the obligation at issue in these proceedings. It was for each member state concerned to determine the method by which it chose to prevent its tax treatment of teachers at European Schools from producing detrimental effects for the system of financing the Community and apportioning financial burdens between the member states.

Article 7 The second question also sought to establish whether article 7 of the EEC Treaty or any other provision of Community law required a member state to extend to its own nationals the exemption from domestic income tax which it granted to teachers of the European Schools who were nationals of another member state and, more specifically, to apply the 1957 decision in relation to them.

In order to reply to that question it was necessary to consider whether such a situation fell within the "scope of application of this Treaty" for the purposes of article 7.

It was true that teachers at the European School might be regarded as workers within the meaning of article 48 of the EEC Treaty who, where they were employed in a school situated in another member state, had made use of their right to free movement within the Community.

That was not however, the case with regard to a teacher who was a national of a member state in which the European School in question was situated and who had not moved within the Community to take up a post with that school.

As the court had previously held, the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in article 7, together with a specific expression of that principle in article 48, could not be applied to situations which were wholly internal to a member state and which were in no way connected to any situations envisaged by Community law.

the mere fact that nationals of a member state were employed by a

Court of Justice of the European Communities

Tax transfer of Community funds to national budget contrary to EEC obligations

European school situated in the territory of a member state was not entitled to confer on those persons the benefit of the Community rules on the free movement of workers and to limit the power of that member state to adopt measures in relation to them which were more restrictive than those applied to nationals of other states.

It followed that article 7 could not be relied upon to prohibit a member state from applying in the teaching staff of a European School situated on its territory tax treatment which was less favourable to its own nationals than to the nationals of other member states.

On those grounds, the court ruled:

1. The Court of Justice had jurisdiction to interpret article 3 of the Act of Accession with regard to such jurisdiction it could interpret the measures covered by that provision only in order to determine its scope, and not for the purpose of defining member states' obligations under such measures.

2. Article 3(3) of the Act of Accession was to be interpreted as applying to the 1957 decision. It did not however add to the legal scope of that decision.

3. By virtue of the duty of genuine cooperation and assistance which member states owed the Community and which found expression in the obligation laid down in article 5 of the EEC Treaty, the achievement of the Community's tasks and to refrain from jeopardizing the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty, member states were prohibited from subjecting to domestic taxation the salaries paid by the European Schools to their teachers, where the burden of such taxation was borne by the Community budget. That obligation did not produce direct effects capable of being relied upon in relations between the member states and their subjects.

4. Neither article 7 of the EEC Treaty nor the general principles of Community law required a member state to give effect to the 1957 decision and to exempt salaries of teachers at a European School situated on its territory from domestic taxation, where those teachers were nationals of that member state.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money staved. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-D, INDUSTRIALS S-Z, BUILDING AND ROADS, FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED, BREWERIES, BANKS DISCOUNT HP, ELECTRICALS.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Total. Includes a note: 'Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.'

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

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INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 13. Dealings End, Jan 24. Contango Day, Jan 27. Settlement Day, Feb 3. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-D, INDUSTRIALS S-Z, BUILDING AND ROADS, FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED, BREWERIES, BANKS DISCOUNT HP, ELECTRICALS.

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THE TIMES Portfolio WEEKLY DIVIDEND £2,000 CLAIMS REQUIRED FOR +42 POINTS

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £26,000 CLAIMS REQUIRED FOR +161 POINTS

Table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-D, INDUSTRIALS S-Z, BUILDING AND ROADS, FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED, BREWERIES, BANKS DISCOUNT HP, ELECTRICALS.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Fowler's Intention' and 'Parit to buy Quilt'.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Distillers poised to link with Guinness

There has been a distinct and radical change of mood in the Distillers' boardroom. The beleaguered directors, handicapped by their appalling past record, have accepted that a merger would be good for the company, its employees and shareholders, but not a "merger" with James Gulliver's Ayrill Group, which has already made a hostile bid worth £1.89 million.

The obvious objection to a Distillers-Guinness union is its combined share of the UK Scotch whisky market, DCL brands (Jahnnie Walker, Dewars, Haig, Claymore and the rest) now take a shrunken 18 per cent of the market, but Arthur Bell, acquired by Guinness last year after a bitter contest, has 20 per cent.

The Distillers' board takes the view, with which Ernest Saunders, the Guinness executive agrees, that the main priority for both is to keep the Scotch whisky industry in good shape. They may disagree on status and precedence but they concur on the essential truth: the Scotch image, especially in the United States, must be not be creased to the point where Distillers can no longer sell their brands at high value added prices.

In the market yesterday Distillers jumped 11p to a new peak of 566p, which is above Ayrill's terms (560p). More than 18 million shares changed hands, GEC's near three per cent stake. The bulk seems to have gone to Ayrill, which has now accumulated about three per cent of Distillers' equity.

Normal prudence suggest that Distillers' shareholders should wait on events.

Fowler makes his intentions clear

The Social Security Bill, published yesterday, put flesh on the bones of Mr Norman Fowler's proposals for cutting the state earnings related pension scheme down to size. It emerges clearly that his new plans are designed not only to reduce the benefits and costs of the scheme, but also to encourage people to contract out.

Hitherto, companies could only contract out if they provided schemes which offered guaranteed minimum pensions, akin to the benefits offered by the state scheme. Under the Social Security Bill, money purchase schemes will only qualify - even though they do not offer any guarantee of a minimum level of benefits. Instead, employers will have to guarantee a minimum level of contributions, though these need be no greater than the rebate of National Insurance contributions granted to those who are not members of the state scheme. If it turns out that the pensions paid under a money purchase scheme fall short of the guaranteed minimum pen-

sion, the state will not make up the difference. In order to encourage contracting out, the Bill offers an extra two per cent rebate for those who leave the scheme, up until the end of 1992-93. Adding the general rebate for contracting out (assumed to be 5 1/2 per cent), on the Government's illustrative calculations, the average male worker (earning £170 a week) will have £600 a year to put into a private pension scheme. The average male non-manual worker (earning £234 a week) will have £890 a year.

Moreover, if his employer does not choose to contract out, an individual can, under the terms of the Bill, choose to leave himself. And these figures, of course, are minima: it is then up to the employee to add tax-deductible contributions out of his own earnings, and make his employer do the same.

With all these incentives, it is interesting to note how many people the Government expects to take advantage of its offer. The Government Actuary's basic calculations are made on the assumption that only half a million more people will contract out, which means that the extra 2 per cent rebate offered would cost the Government £60 million in 1988-89. On this basis, all the proposed changes to the scheme would cut its cost by a mere £100 million, at today's prices, in 1993-94. This saving would increase to £19 billion - but not until the second half of the twenty-first century.

Time running out for the LCE

Mr Saxon Tate, the new executive chairman of the London Commodity Exchange, has put to the exchange a modest proposal it will find hard, and be ill-advised, to refuse. His document, "A Proposal for the Reorganization of the LCE" is admirable, clear and concise. More important, it is right.

The central problem which Mr Tate has identified and addressed is the desperate need to increase trading volume in London. The dismal figures speak for themselves: in London last year trading in soft commodities, the core of the LCE's business, fell by a fifth. In Paris, by contrast, it rose by almost as much, and New York added about 5 per cent.

This does not merely imply loss of income for commodity traders. It means the erosion of their equity in the various London exchanges. Declining volume in London, therefore, means capital as well as revenue loss. Mr Tate is adamant that there is little time before this self-reinforcing deterioration accelerates dangerously.

Members of the warring exchanges under the LCE umbrella - cocoa, coffee, sugar and petroleum chiefly - thus have a real material interest in accepting Mr Tate's plans. There is also a powerful practical reason for their accepting them: nobody has proposed anything better, and nobody is likely to do so in the time available.

The Tate document exploits deftly the vulnerability of the exchanges. It sets as central objectives the abolition of the terminal market associations, their replacement by an elected board of a limited company and the move to Commodity Quay. Indeed, the new building looms large in the plans.

There seems little question that the cocoa, coffee and sugar markets will accept the proposals by the end-of-January deadline. The International Petroleum Exchange is being more difficult, because ostensibly it cannot afford to subscribe for shares in the new LCE company. For the plan to work it must become a tenant at Commodity Quay, possibly with an option to take shares in the LCE later.

Rather boldly, Mr Tate envisages an important revenue-generating role for Commodity Market Services, the LCE subsidiary producing electronic gadgets, and for locals who can become members of the exchange.

'Temporary blip' pushes rate of inflation up to 5.7 per cent

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation rose to 5.7 per cent last month, as the retail index rose by 0.1 per cent from November to December. The public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) was £1.7 billion, indicating that borrowing must not out at near to zero in the remaining three months of the financial year if the Government is to hit its target.

The retail price index was 378.9 (January 1974-100) last month, compared with 378.4 in November. The rise in the index, measured over 12 months, rose from 5.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent. In December 1984, the index fell by 0.1 per cent, mainly as a result of lower mortgage rates.

Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Employment, described the rise in the rate of inflation as "a temporary blip," adding that prices rose "by only one tenth of a penny in the pound" last month.

The main reason for this

increase was higher seasonal food prices. Alcoholic drinks fell by 0.8 per cent, as a result of pre-Christmas discounts, and the average price of four-star petrol fell 0.6p to 191.3p a gallon.

Measured over the past six months, retail prices rose at an annualized rate of just 1.3 per cent, the lowest six-month rate since October 1967.

This month, increased British Rail and London Regional Transport fares will add 0.04 per cent to the index, and higher bread prices will add a similar amount.

Even so, the prospect is for a drop in the rate of inflation because last January there was a 0.4 per cent rise in the index. A sharper drop is in store next month, as a result of the favourable comparison with last February's 0.8 per cent index rise.

Last month's PSBR brings the cumulative total for the first

BORROWING AND SPENDING

Table with columns: Year, PSBR £m, Supply Expenditure £m. Rows for 1984 Q1-Q4 and 1985 Q1-Q4.

Source: Treasury

nine months of 1985-86 to £7.8 billion. The Chancellor's target for the whole of the financial year, revised up by £1 billion in the autumn statement in November, is £8 billion.

The Government received £300 million from the sale of Cable and Wireless shares last month, bringing the total in central privatization proceeds to around £2.25 billion. A

further amount of just under £300 million is due on the second Cable and Wireless call in March.

The January PSBR will be helped by the £600 million abatement on the 1984 EEC budget contribution, and the first of the monthly instalments of the 1985 EEC budget abatement.

Last month, local authorities borrowed a net £281 million, and public corporations £340 million. The central government borrowing requirement was £1.5 billion, giving a cumulative £11.7 billion in the first nine months of 1985-86.

Supply expenditure totalled £8.64 billion last month, 11.2 per cent up on December 1984. The monthly figures are erratic, however, and a better guide to spending trends is provided by figures for the first nine months of 1985-86, excluding advance contributions to the EEC. These show supply spending up by 6.5 per cent on 1984-85.

IN BRIEF

£400m tap stock issue

The Bank of England is issuing by tender £400 million of 2.5 per cent Exchequer stock due 1990, payable in full. The minimum tender price is £77 per cent and the tender offer closes at 10am next Wednesday.

Dealers said that an issue of stock in this sector of the market was expected as demand for low-coupon bonds to shorter maturities had been evident.

The attractiveness of low-coupon stocks will be enhanced significantly by changes in the tax treatment of some government bonds due to come into effect this year, the first at the end of next month.

Temps, page 15

Bids cleared

The Trade and Industry Secretary has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition by John Mowlem & Co of Alfred Booth & Co and that by The Royal Bank of Scotland of Style Financial Services to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Swan sale

The sale of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders to a management consortium for £5 million is to be completed on Monday. The consortium said it had no plans for any redundancies.

South Korea has taken an important step towards opening its stock market to direct foreign investment, as 14 Korean firms will now be allowed by the finance ministry to make issues in the international money markets.

Lagos loans

Nigeria's planned rescheduling of some of its medium and long-term debt will be approached on a loan-by-loan basis, Mr Kalu Kalu, the finance minister, said.

BHP deal

The Melbourne shareholder Potter Partners and the Broke Hill Proprietary Company have settled a legal dispute over the broker's advice to companies associated with Robert Holmes & Court.

Housing rise

Housing starts in the United States rose 17.5 per cent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,840,000 units, the Commerce Department said.



Pierre Berégovoy: pressing for action by G5

More calls for lower loan rates

By Our Economics Correspondent

France and Japan are to ensure that the question of a coordinated move to lower world interest rates has priority at the Group of Five meeting, beginning today.

The London meeting, starting tonight with dinner at Number 11 Downing Street, is a continuation of the Group of Five finance ministers - of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Japan - since September.

M. Pierre Berégovoy, the French finance minister, called in a speech in New York for concerted action to reduce interest rates.

Addressing the Foreign Policy Association, M. Berégovoy said: "If we postpone reduction of interest rates for too long, we shall be putting brakes on the recovery and we could even jeopardize it altogether."

"The solution lies, as in the case of exchange rates, in concerted action by the major industrial countries."

The Japanese finance minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, said before leaving Tokyo that he wanted to see a united view on the easing of credit restrictions at the Group of Five meeting. He had a meeting with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday morning.

Japan's Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has also called for a coordinated approach to lower interest rates to be agreed at the meeting. The country wants to spread some of the burden of the changes that have occurred in exchange rates since the last Group of Five meeting.

Mr Satoshi Sumita, the central bank governor, who is attending the London meeting, is on record as saying that the yen's appreciation to a level of 200 against the dollar is sufficient.

Italy, which has been pressing for representation in an expanded Group of Five, introduced measures to bolster the lira on Thursday. These produced a small firming for the Italian currency against the dollar.

The foreign exchanges were quiet ahead of the Group of Five meeting. The pound ended just a tenth of a cent down at \$1.4385 against the dollar, with the sterling index down 0.1 to 77.9.

Last-ditch bid to end tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A last-ditch attempt to resolve the tin crisis will be made this weekend at the (Group of Five) meeting of leading industrial nations and at the meeting between Mrs Thatcher, and President Mitterrand on Monday.

To the woe of two days of fruitless informal talks between banks, metal brokers and the International Tin Council, Mrs Thatcher has been briefed by officials from the Department of Trade and Industry.

France, which is one of the leading members of the tin council has been publicly attacked by representatives of banks and brokers as the chief opponent of the principle that the ITC is financially responsible for the crisis.

The tin councils gross debts of £900 million may be discussed in the G5 meeting at ministerial level. Bankers and brokers gave a warning yesterday that the refusal of a group of sovereign nations to accept their responsibilities was already undermining international credit markets.

Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kesteven, managing director of the brokers Gerald Metals, said that the last two days' talks with the council delegates and officials had produced only a request to reduce by an unspecified amount the tin councils £300 million contribution to the banks' and

brokers' £320 million rescue plan.

Mr Graham said: "One gets the impression that they are fooling around with us."

Clear support for the rescue plan was given by MacIaine Watson, which is owned by the American investment house, Drexel Burnham Lambert and is one of the biggest brokers.

But MacIaine gave a warning that time was very short. The LME is due to decide on Monday whether to resume tin trading before the end of the month. The widespread feeling in the market is that only an extraordinary change of heart by West Germany and Holland, which along with France have blocked rescue plans, can avoid chaos in the market.

Brittan cautious on European deals

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mr Leo Brittan, the trade and industry secretary, said yesterday that using defence procurement policies to build up strong European defence industries "depends how suspicious you are and of whom."

"If you want a European alternative to American purchases," he said "I accept that governments must play a leading part in bringing it

about". The Government was prepared to do this where the scale involved is extremely large but "there are dangers of locking yourself into an international cartel". This could leave the taxpayer paying more.

Mr Brittan was answering questions at Chatham House at the launch of a study "oo European industrial policy commissioned by his depart-

ment in 1982 following French calls to create pan-European companies protected from outside competition to stop Europe falling behind in technology.

"Protectionism and Industrial Policy in Europe by Joan Pearce and John Sutton with Roy Batchelor. Published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs at £16.

Leader, page 9

Paribas to buy Quilter

By Cliff Feltham

Quilter Goodison, the stock-broking firm headed by the chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, is selling out to Paribas, the French-owned banking group.

The 35 partners in Quilter Goodison, including Sir Nicholas, are receiving an undisclosed sum for their shareholdings but will stay in the business. Two executives of Paribas will join the board.

Paribas is keen to build up an equity business in London and has been negotiating with Quilter for several months. Scandinavia, the Swedish insurance group, had taken a 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroking firm but has been unable to take control because of local insurance regulations. It is passing its stake on to Paribas.

Sir Nicholas Goodison's position as chairman of the Stock Exchange remains unchanged. Paribas is able to take control because of the lifting of restrictions preventing outsiders from owning member firms. This takes effect from March but the Quilter Goodison deal goes through in April.

Milbury write-off feared

By Lawrence Lever

Shareholders in Milbury, the property and housebuilding group formerly controlled by Mr Jim Raper, are unlikely to recover any of their investment, according to figures released by the official receiver yesterday.

A creditors' meeting was told that Milbury - which operated as a holding company for a number of trading subsidiaries - had total liabilities of £6.3 million. Its assets, largely cash deposits, came to £99,796.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Lists various market indices and prices.

Advertisement for Perpetual European Growth Fund. Text: 'Why wait for the channel tunnel? Invest now with Perpetual.' Includes 'UP TO 20% LAUNCH BONUS' graphic.

Advertisement for Unit Trust Managers of the year. Text: 'Perpetual European Growth Fund'. Includes application form and contact details.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUSTS INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing financial data for various unit trusts, including columns for fund names, shares, and performance metrics.

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table containing financial data for unit-linked insurance investments, including columns for investment names, shares, and performance metrics.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound ended slightly weaker, while the dollar closed mixed in cautious and thin trading yesterday. There was little trading and most dealers had squared their positions ahead of the weekend.

Speculation that the group of five meeting will produce a co-ordinated interest rate cut thought to be favoured by the Europeans but not by the US Federal Reserve continues, though some analysts are in doubt. The outcome for the dollar itself is not clear.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

OTHER STERLING RATES and DOLLAR SPOT RATES tables with columns for Country, Rate, and other details.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD table with columns for Rate, Bid, Ask, and other market data.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS % table with columns for Currency, Term, and Rate.

TREASURY BILL TENDER table with columns for Application, Amount, and other details.

COMMODITIES table with columns for Commodity, Price, and other market data.

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WALL STREET

Prices opened mixed in active trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 14.34 to 1541.63 on Thursday, was down 0.34 to 1541.28 soon after the market opened.

Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Boeing, British Airways, etc.

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COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

F. COPSON: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,550 (3,236), while the pretax profit was 54 (50).

APPLE TREE: For the year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 14,125 (13,432), while the pretax profit was 738 (569).

MEPCO: The company has bought the 35 per cent minority held by three life assurance companies.

TRIST: For the year to Nov 30, with figures in £000, gross revenue was 4,774 (4,597), while the pretax profit was 4,121 (4,011).

KINGSLEY AND FORESTER GROUP: The acquisition of Downex Beeding and Jaymon (Manchester) has been completed.

VOGELTRUIBSBULT: The pretax profit for 1985 was £9.67 million (£2.86 million) against a loss of £134,000 in the previous year.

GOLD FIELDS PROPERTY: Pretax profits increased from £4.36 million to £5.31 million (£1.57 million) in the six months to Dec 31.

REUTERS: The subsidiary, Visnews, has a new partner for its Brighton Satellite community company.

ATLANTIC ASSETS TRUST: For the half-year to Dec 31, with figures in £000, pretax revenue was 695 (841).

WHITWORTH ELECTRIC: The company has bought an 87 per cent head leasehold interest in Phase 2 of the Edmonton Green shopping centre.

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TEMPUS Granada-Ladbroke link holds promise for both

The best takeovers are those which are disguised as mergers. The proposed link between Granada and Ladbroke is no exception.

The fact that the Government Broker suddenly decided to attack this segment of the gilt market implies perhaps that the authorities have no confidence in the Department for National Savings' capacity to meet its targets with its existing portfolio of savings instruments.

Low coupon stocks in general have been highly resistant to bouts of despair in the market shake-out. Yields on five-year high coupon stocks have risen by about 4 per cent since the start of the year.

Particular, both Ladbroke and Granada have solid cash flows which can support their more cash-hungry development programmes.

Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of the proposed merger is that it is already under open public discussion, even though there are no formal proposals to put to shareholders.

It will become clearer as the negotiations progress. But for the time being shareholders in both Granada and Ladbroke can do no more than sit tight and hope that the ultimate logic of the deal prevails.

Shares in Extel Group were back in the limelight yesterday, the price jumping to 356p at one stage before settling for a 20p gain at 350p.

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures prices for various contracts including Three Month Sterling, June 86, etc.

Table of London Financial Futures prices for various contracts including Three Month Eurodollar, Mar 86, etc.

Table of London Financial Futures prices for various contracts including US Treasury Bond, Jun 86, etc.

Table of London Financial Futures prices for various contracts including Short GB, Mar 86, etc.

Table of London Financial Futures prices for various contracts including Long GB, Jun 86, etc.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Extel shares jump 20p on bid speculation

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of Financial Trusts prices for various trusts including Aberdeen & Co., etc.

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RECENT ISSUES

Table of Recent Issues for various companies including Abbey, etc.

Edited by Lorna Bourke

FAMILY MONEY/1

The light at the end of the dole queue

SMALL BUSINESSES

A surprising number of successful small businesses have apparently been born out of dole queue desperation.

Under the Manpower Services Commission's Enterprise Allowance Scheme, many thousands of unemployed people have been helped to get their firms going. And this week as part of an MSC campaign to publicize the expansion of the scheme, some of its star entrepreneurs have been explaining how they used the allowance.

They include a couple who set up a machine tool firm with a turnover of more than £250,000 after two years' trading, a former labourer, unemployed for 18 months and now running a handmade chocolate business employing

two others, and a pair of textile graduates running a designer knitwear firm.

Others who have done well out of the scheme include a partnership making thief-proof bicycle lamps, another manufacturing "marbled fabric" and a woman running a specialist hairdressing salon for black people.

In all, about 120,000 people have been able to take the plunge from unemployment to self-employment since the scheme started in August 1983.

To be eligible you have to have been out of work or under notice of redundancy for 13 weeks, though the qualification period is going down to eight weeks after April.

You have to provide £1,000 capital either through a loan, overdraft or redundancy payment, or from savings, to prove you are serious about setting up in business, and once you have

been accepted you are paid a £40 weekly allowance for the first year of operation.

The scheme is administered through job centres, and people wishing to start their own businesses using it have to attend an information session at which they are warned of the risks.

After that, applicants have to get approval for their particular proposed line of business - blue movie dealers and would-be

nightclub owners are apparently not considered suitable. But the business counsellors who work the scheme are at pains to point out that approval does not mean they take responsibility for the success or failure of the business.

However, they do offer three free sessions of advice during the year. They will help with management questions, finance, premises and marketing matters.

But you get only one go at the scheme. If your business idea fails it will be up to you to deal with the debts and you will not be able to rejoin the scheme to start again with something else.

Despite the enormous risks involved in setting up in self-employment, first statistics available from people who have used the enterprise allowance suggest a remarkably high success rate - certainly higher than the statistical success rate for people setting up businesses without the disadvantage of being starved of back-up capital by unemployment.

Of those who got through the first year when they received the £40 a week, just over 60 per cent have kept going for more than three years, and for every 100 continuing businesses, 50

additional new jobs have been created.

The majority of those on the scheme are in the 25-54 age bracket but 25 per cent of them are under 25. Most of the businesses started are in the services sector although there are construction and manufacturing businesses.

Last week the MSC chairman, Bryan Nicholson, announced plans to increase the number of places on the scheme

are also launching a major marketing drive," he says.

Not surprisingly, the scheme has had least impact in the areas of greatest unemployment and poverty such as Glasgow and Newcastle upon Tyne. But it has been well received in rural Scotland, Wales and the South West, where morale and money supply are probably slightly better - in the market-place as well as the workshop.

The MSC puts the discrepancy down to different factors. Possibly people in such places as Newcastle have a tradition of working for large organizations and they have skills which are not easily adaptable to self-employment - for example some of the shipbuilding trades. But despite the patchy take-up of the scheme, its pioneers deserve recognition for the success with those they have helped.

Lois Rogers

Well received where morale is good

from 62,000 this year to 80,000 in the year beginning in April, which will mean a budget increase from £109 million to £140 million.

"We are confident there are enough potential customers but many of them are not aware that the enterprise allowance scheme can help them, so we

On the Wright lines

Martin Wright and his wife Beryl, both 50, have had a tremendous boost from the scheme. Three years ago Martin lost his job after the Midlands-based machine tool company where he had been a skilled tool technologist for 30 years went into liquidation.

He received a £3,000 state redundancy payment and six months later with the help of the scheme set up Wright Machine Tools in a small village industrial unit between Coventry and Birmingham.

"I was a housewife until then," says Beryl, who has three grown-up children. "But I had a background in book-keeping and accountancy and I got

completely involved seven days a week."

They were able to offer lower prices than bigger companies. Now they employ 17 other people and specialize in subcontract work and rebuilding machine tools.

Rolls-Royce is among their clients and Martin is confidently predicting a turnover of about £500,000 this year. "You've got to be totally determined to make a go of self-employment," he says. "I just kept telling myself my business was going to succeed, no matter what, and there was no way I was going back to the dole. Now I can see no reason why we shouldn't go on expanding."

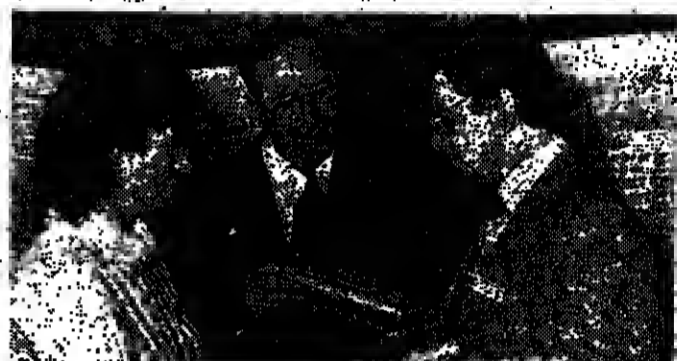


Patrick Crow above, a 31-year-old from Walsall, was trained as a hairdresser but was working for a company, building and installing furnaces when he lost his job.

After 18 months on the dole Patrick, married with a baby daughter, remembered a chocolate he had met while installing a furnace in Belgium.

He said: "I was very impressed with what they were doing, making handmade chocolate animals, and so on. I wrote to the chap in Belgium, found out as much as I could about what was involved, and then bought the chocolate recipe. It's up to us to get the recipe right, though."

He must be doing it right. In less than a year turnover at his firm, Cavalier Chocolates, is nearly £50,000 and he is employing two other people.



The Wrights, their wares and Bryan Nicholson

How you could cut your school fees costs by 80%.

The Equitable has recently had an Educational Trust established (with all the tax advantages of charitable status), that's designed to save you thousands of pounds on public school fees.

For example, a single contribution of £9,491.22 could, after 10 years, provide £48,000 worth of school fees* in total over the following 7 years.

At a saving of 80%.

Or you may prefer to spread the cost by making regular contributions. Either way, if you're thinking of putting your child's name down for public school, put his name down for an Equitable School Fees Trust Plan. Cut out the coupon or phone 01-606 6611 for details.

*Figures suppose that current immediate annuity rates apply at the time, and that current bonus levels including terminal bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits, and cannot be guaranteed.

Recommended by National ISAs.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2A 2JT. £3 welcome further details on your school fee plans, financing them by: A Capital sum; Spreading the cost over a period. (UK residents only)

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth



Tel: Office

Tel: Home

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All dressed up for a profit

Graduates Claire Boxall and Sue Read, who both did fashion and textiles at Brighton Polytechnic, have been running their knitwear design company for more than a year.

They employ eight networkers who make up the garments on knitting machines. They sell direct to optometrist clothes shops around the country, a new outlet in New York has just been secured, and they have other expansion plans in Paris and Milan.

Both Claire and Sue are working from their respective homes in Hertfordshire and Bath.

"We do collections twice a year and we just get together to plan those," says Claire, who paid for her own hi-tech computerized machine using the allowance money from the enterprise scheme. "The next step is to get our own Boxall and Read design studio somewhere central so people can come to us instead of us having to hawk round examples of our work."

Sue says: "At the moment it's looking very exciting with all these expansion possibilities. Our immediate ambition is to get some of the big London stores interested in buying from us."



Claire and Sue: Getting together in business

Mean what you say when you buy and sell

CONTRACTS

If you are buying or selling shares never forget the Stock Exchange motto "My word is my bond". If you do, it could cost you dearly.

Recently two British Telecom investors were successfully sued by licensed dealers Harvard Securities. The investors had failed to honour deals to sell shares that they had made on the telephone. Harvard sued for the difference between the price agreed by phone and the cost of having to buy an equivalent number of shares six weeks later. The investors were also liable for the costs estimated at up to £1,000 each.

Elissa Bayer, of brokers Savory Millin, explains: "When you telephone your broker to buy or sell shares, your instructions are carried out immediately you put the telephone down. A contract is made there and then. As we tend to know our clients personally we try to be as helpful as possible if they have made a mistake or change their mind, but they must telephone back immediately."

This does not mean, however, that every time you ring your broker you enter into a legally binding contract. A general discussion may not result in a firm buying order from you and, therefore, no contract is formed. Moreover, you might lay down a price for the shares that you wish to buy or sell. For instance, you may stipulate that you want to buy a particular share at, say, 130p or less, and therefore, in effect, enter into a conditional contract.

If the broker cannot buy the

shares at this price, then clearly no contract is formed. If, for some reason, he or she buys at a higher price than you stipulated, you are not bound to accept the shares.

If, however, you give your broker discretion - for instance to buy shares "at best" - then you will be bound by the subsequent purchase even if you think that the ultimate purchase price is rather high.

Buying and selling shares by telephone shows quite clearly that oral contracts are binding in law. In fact you are constantly making legally enforceable oral contracts every moment of the day.

Before you arrive at work you will have usually made at least three binding contracts which are enforceable at law. Travelling by bus or train involves a contract of carriage, having

breakfast on the train entails your entering into a contract for the supply of goods and services and buying a newspaper is a contract for the sale of goods.

A valid contract, oral or written, has five basic elements: 1. There must be an agreement - a buyer makes an offer and a seller accepts.

2. Both parties must intend there to be a legal relationship. Parents can breathe a sigh of relief as a father agreeing to pay a son or daughter their promised pocket money is a purely domestic arrangement not intended to have legal consequences. It is therefore not a legally enforceable contract.

3. A person may in any event not have the necessary legal capacity to make a contract. Children under 18 are not bound by most kinds of contract.

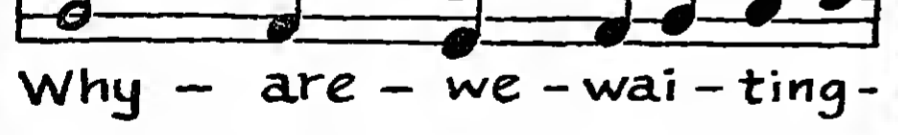
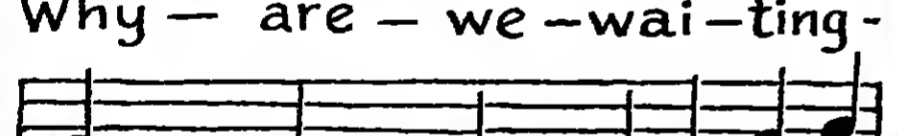
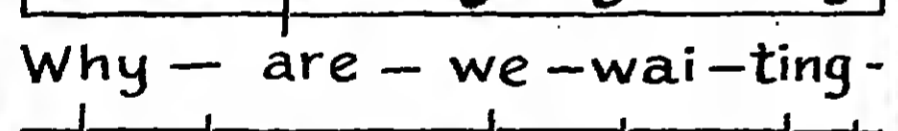
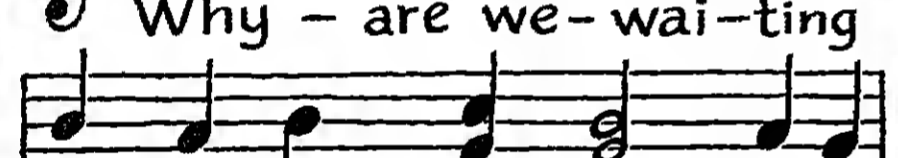
4. The fourth element in a simple contract is "consideration" - usually, but not always, the price that each party pays to the other.

5. No valid contract can exist where the purpose of the agreement is void or illegal. This requirement is more far-reaching than is immediately apparent.

An industrial tribunal recently held that a contract of employment was void as being a fraud on the Inland Revenue. The reason for this was that an employee's wages had included an amount which was paid to him tax free even though both he and his employer knew that tax ought to have been deducted. The entire contract of employment was deemed illegal.

Susan Fieldman

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With instant withdrawals all you lose is 60 days' interest on the amount withdrawn (give us 60 days' notice and you lose nothing).

£500 opens a 60 Day Special Share account (keep a balance of £1,000 and you can get monthly interest).

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Signature(s)

National & Provincial

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If you have to stop paying your premiums, through misfortune or because you join a company pension scheme, the retirement benefits you have already built

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On top of this vital flexibility are the benefits of choosing London Life in the first place.

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And your pension is in very good hands; we have over 175 years of experience in our field, and our investment record is one of the best in the business.

If you'd like to know more about the Retirement Prosperity Plan, fill in and return the coupon below.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Date of Birth, Preferred Retirement Age, Amount of Monthly Savings, Tax Rate, Tel No: Business, Home, London Life logo.

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Platinum is one of the rarest metals on earth and one of the most valuable. It is produced in exceptionally small quantities and the total world output is only around 80 tonnes annually, compared with about 1,200 tonnes of gold.

Much of the platinum produced is used in a rapidly growing range of high technology applications and a significant proportion is made into jewellery. Consequently the metal is always in demand. It is also a readily tradable commodity.

Now Johnson Matthey platinum bars are available to the private investor. Of course, like any other investment, the value of platinum can fall as well as rise, particularly in the short term.

But the price in sterling has nearly quadrupled during the past decade and over a similar period it has easily outperformed inflation, too.

Johnson Matthey platinum bars are produced in eight sizes up to 10oz troy, each one being individually numbered.

You can take possession of the bars in the UK, in which case VAT must be charged. Alternatively, they can be held in safekeeping at our vaults in Jersey or Zurich, in which case no VAT is payable on the value of the bars.

Should you wish to sell your bars we guarantee to repurchase them at any time. For full information on Johnson Matthey platinum bars, and an application form, simply complete and send the coupon by Freepost.

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FAMILY MONEY 2

Discount way to avoid unit trust trouble

The trouble with most unit trust advisory services is that the managers have a built-in incentive to switch your investments - they generate commission this way. However, a new service launched by stockbrokers Montagu Loeb Stanley avoids this potential difficulty by charging a flat annual fee, and rebating commission generated by switching to the investor in the form of a discount on the price at which units are purchased. Fees charged will be 0.5 per cent a year on the value of the portfolio, with a minimum fee of £100.

To take advantage of the service you have to have at least £10,000 to invest, but for this Montagu Loeb Stanley guarantees that it will put no more than one-third of any individual portfolio in the unit trusts of any one investment house including its associate company, Save & Prosper.

It is worth noting that Montagu Loeb Stanley does not intend to make a market in shares once the Stock Exchange Big Bang occurs, so there will be no conflict of interest.

The case of the critical consumers

It is not only the City that has expressed doubts about the self-regulatory framework proposed in the Financial Services Bill, which received its Second Reading in the Commons this week. The Consumers' Association has "growing doubts" about the effectiveness of the regime proposed in the bill, particularly in respect of the composition and powers of the board planned for the top of the regulatory tree.

The Consumers' Association says it would like a statutory board which is independent of the investment industry, capable of forming rules that truly benefit investors and which the board can enforce.

£2m for care

Green Park Health Care plans to raise nearly £2 million to develop long-term nursing facilities for elderly people during the next five years. The company, under the chairmanship of the former Dunlop boss Sir Campbell Fraser, has just been launched as a business expansion scheme. The first stage of the plan includes the conversion of Downlands at Haywards Heath, West Sussex, which is already owned by Green Park, into a 45-bed nursing home and the purchase of a 23-bed nursing home at Farnham, Surrey. The company envisages eventually creating campus-style accommodation for 400 elderly people around large country houses standing in their own grounds.

The offer, which is being sponsored by Pointon York & Lancaster, will close on February 24. Details from Bolton York & Lancaster Health 414077 or Ashford (Kent) 36832.

All the concessions

The Inland Revenue has wide discretion to allow certain deductions against profits before calculating corporation tax liability. There are also many concessions on capital allowances and capital gains taxes and a complete review of these concessions has just been published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants - *Inland Revenue Concessions and Practices*. The material has been obtained from many sources, including Inland Revenue booklets, notes of meetings between the Institute and the Revenue and press releases, and it contains all known concessions, practices and other official pronouncements referring to corporation tax, capital allowances and capital gains tax up to the beginning of December 1985.

Copies of the book can be obtained at £12.50 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gloucester House, 309 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL.

Prosper pensions

Pensions advisers Richards Longstaff have launched a new self-employed pension scheme which will invest in unit trusts chosen from Save & Prosper's range of 28 pension funds. The idea is that Save & Prosper looks after the day-to-day selection of shares



'I keep getting this feeling that I'm a rampaging closet monetarist'

within each unitized pension fund, but Richards Longstaff will select the mix of funds. The drawback is, of course, that you are limited to Save & Prosper's units. Plenty of fund managers already offer a similar facility but the difference is that you have to make your own decision on which of their funds to invest in. Ideally, those interested in taking an active hand in the management of their pension assets would be free to switch units between investment houses, as well as between the different funds managed by the firm.

Details: Richards Longstaff, Broad Quay House, Broad Quay, Bristol BS1 4DJ (Bristol) 294313.

Northern thrift

The notion that northern folk are canny over money appears to have some substance. Research carried out on behalf of Yorkshire Television reveals that more than two-thirds of adults in the region have a bank account and more than half have a building society account with a high proportion of people able to save. Seven out of 10 Yorkshire men and women have some form of insurance or assurance, while 30 per cent of the adult population belongs to a pension scheme.

The most popular ways of saving money in Yorkshire apart from through banks and building societies, are in Premium Bonds, which are held by one-third of adults, or through the Post Office, which is used by 18 per cent.

Good for a year

If you are prepared to lock your money away for a year, you might try the Guaranteed Income Bond offered by R. J. Temple, which provides an annual income of 10.5 per cent net for the basic rate taxpayer. The minimum investment is at the fairly low level of £1,000, and the bond is underwritten by Prudential Assurance. Anyone of 12 or over can buy one. R. J. Temple says that the yield is the highest it has ever offered since it marketed special issues of its own bond in 1982. Investors can also take a monthly income but receive a marginally lower rate - 10.1 per cent net. Overall, the low entry level and high guaranteed rate of return makes this a good deal at the moment - provided interest rates do not move up again.

Details: R. J. Temple, 37 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 2QA (Brighton) 673136.

Cheap from Chase

Cheap home loans at 12.5 per cent are available from investment advisers Chase de Vere with a minimum loan of £30,000 and a maximum of £250,000. You can borrow up to twice the main earner's income plus once the partner's income. Where both partners are qualified professionals, and aged over 30, the multiple increases to three times the joint incomes - but you pay a premium of 13.25 per cent for this money.

Full details: Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1 (01-930 7242).

Parents' guide

A free guide on the effects of recent proposed changes in student entitlements to housing, supplementary and other benefits is being produced by the National Union of Students. The "parent pack" is, according to Vicky Phillips, the union's vice-president for welfare, a new venture for this organization. She says: "They (parents) are obviously concerned about the fact that these proposals could cost their kids hundreds of pounds, and as usual the Government is expecting parents to foot the bill."

The free parent pack is available from the NUS, 461 Holloway Road, London N7 6LJ. Requests should be marked "Parent Pack" on the envelope and accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Kuwait cash

The United Bank of Kuwait might not be the first place you think of when you want a mortgage, but the bank is certainly in the market for home loans. The rate charged at the moment is 12.5 per cent (APR 13.2 per cent) and loans start from £30,001. Repayment, endowment and pension mortgages are considered. For loans of up to £50,000 UK\$ will lend up to 80 per cent of valuation, and over £57,250, the bank advances a maximum of 70 per cent. In between these two figures the most you can get is £40,000.

Details: The Manager, Mortgage Branch, United Bank of Kuwait Ltd, 15 Baker Street, London W1M 2EB (01-936 1365).

Paying for dying

Sorry to be gloomy, but the National Association of Funeral Directors has launched a funeral expense plan in

conjunction with Windsor Life Assurance. It allows you to plan in advance to meet the costs of your own funeral. Benefits accumulating under the plan, according to the association's president, Robert Pargetter, will increase by up to 10 per cent a year. The level of payments to the plan is fixed at the outset. "More and more people now face the task of planning their eventual funeral and the means of paying for it. Many are anxious that the cost should not fall on their dependants," says Mr Pargetter.

Details: Windsor Life, Royal Albert House, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BE.

Fewer failures

The numbers of businesses going bust are at least slowing, with a 3 per cent decline in the statistics of business failures for 1985. "This is the first annual fall in the number of failures notified since 1979 and it occurred with a remarkable lag of four years after the start of the upswing in total economic activity in mid-1981," says Ted Indemity, which compiles the figures. However, there are big variations. Building and construction companies reported an 18 per cent increase in business failures, while engineering and metals failures showed a 15 per cent decline.

Britain is tops with new fund

INVESTMENT

Martin Rasch, manager of Perpetual's European Growth Fund which is being launched this weekend, is set to give European fund managers a geography lesson. Britain, he believes, is a part of Europe and deserves a dominant place in the fund.

Initially, UK investments will take about a third of the fund, with only West Germany taking a larger slice of the investment - about 35 per cent. The rest of the investments will be spread rather thinly over Europe, with France and Switzerland accounting for 8 per cent apiece. Italy and the Netherlands 6 per cent each and a tiny amount elsewhere.

Perpetual believes the outlook for the UK is rosy and it would be foolish to deny European investors access to the more than 2,400 companies quoted on the UK stock market which boosts the range of possible European investments by 80 per cent.

Some other European unit trusts, such as Hill Samuel European, have the option of investing in Britain but have not done so, while others are barred by their trust deed. Britain's European fund has 8 per cent and is limited to a maximum of 10 per cent.

Mr Rasch has won his European spurs on the Perpetual Intercontinental Growth Fund which now has about a quarter of its funds invested in Europe, and as much in the UK.

VG



'If you're hoping to take out one of our life insurances, you'd better change your description of fatalist as your occupation'

MORE MONTHLY INCOME! GUARANTEED TAX FREE*

This specially designed investment offers you a high monthly income which has risen year by year and is completely free from income tax.

Look at the table showing how the income from £10,000 invested in September 1980 has risen from £98.17 per month to £211.00 per month. And the results, taking half yearly income, are equally impressive.

In addition to producing the income shown below, your original investment of £10,000 would have increased to £23,936 by September 1985.

To take full advantage of this exceptional opportunity, complete and return the coupon without obligation right away.

Income produced from £10,000 invested in September 1980 withdrawing 10% p.a. income.

Average Monthly Income - Sept-Sept.				
1980/1	1981/2	1982/3	1983/4	1984/5
£98.17	£112.33	£168.63	£186.00	£211.00

*Assumes your Capital Gains Tax allowance of £5000 is not exceeded. It should be remembered that past performance cannot necessarily be taken as a guide to the future and unit values can fall as well as rise.

Please send me full details of this outstanding investment opportunity by return.

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I may consider an investment of £ _____

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Save & Prosper would like to open the doors to Masterfund.

The newest type of investment for capital growth that's designed to give you the best of a whole range of different unit trusts.

From just one investment.

THE ONLY UNIT TRUST YOU'LL EVER NEED. (OR THE ONLY UNIT TRUST YOU'LL EVER NEED.)

Far from being just one more unit trust investing in one more area, Save & Prosper's Masterfund is one of the first unit trusts to invest among other unit trusts.

27 of them, in fact, making up one of the widest and most comprehensive investment ranges there is.

1,400 different securities traded in 25 different countries - covering everything from investment trusts to Japanese smaller companies. And, (for those who like safety in numbers,) including some of the largest funds there are.

NO SHOPPING AROUND.

No, instead of you having to shop around deciding which of the hundreds of unit trusts to put your money in - and when to take it out again - you can leave it to our Masterfund experts to make (and take) the decisions.

(The same experts, incidentally, who as part of one of Britain's largest unit trust groups, handle millions every day.)

From start to finish they'll be switching your money into those of our trusts they think are on the way up. And safely out of any that look at risk.

All without charging you one new penny in switching fees.

BUILDING SOCIETIESZZZZZ

There's a couple of other reasons for stopping off at Save & Prosper for your financial shopping too. (Points of interest you could say.)

Investment in even the average Save & Prosper unit trust over the last five years* would have been worth 50% more than in a building society ordinary share account.

And 65% more than in a seven day bank deposit account.

So while you should leave short term savings lying quietly within reach, it's paid to date to put long-term savings out to work.

A PRICE TAG TO FIT THE BILL.

You can invest in Masterfund from as little as £250 or from £20 a month.

You should remember, of course, that the price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up.

Just complete the coupon or talk to your professional adviser. Or phone us for free on 0800 282 101 for more information.

And see why new Masterfund's got it all - in one.

* to 1st December '85 with net income reinvested.

Further details: The Save & Prosper Securities Ltd, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Telephone: Moneyline 0800 282 101. Prestel *48128#.

Please send me details of saving in Masterfund from £20 a month

First Name(s) _____

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Existing Account No. (if any) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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213	R.R.	C.C.No.
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I wish to invest £..... (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in Save & Prosper Masterfund at the offer price prevailing on the day of receipt of my application.

I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited. I am over 18.

I would like distributions of income to be reinvested in the purchase of further units.*

*delete if you wish the income to be paid direct to you.

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Britain's newest investment idea.

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ABOUT BRITANNIA GROUP. Britannia is one of the leading Investment Management Groups in the U.K., Channel Islands and U.S.A. and now manages in excess of \$4,000m. on behalf of 350,000 investors worldwide, including 1,000 institutional clients from its offices in London, Jersey, Denver and Boston.

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COMPLETE COUPON - and receive a detailed letter together with our latest investment bulletin and the Fund brochure, including your application form.

*Calculated as at 13th January 1986.

The Fund is based in Jersey and is listed on the Stock Exchange, London.

NOTE - U.K. resident shareholders will, depending on their circumstances, be liable to U.K. taxation in respect of dividends they receive. Investors should recognise that whilst Gilt provides a very high immediate return, the prospect of capital gain in the future may vary. The fund should therefore be considered as part of an overall balanced portfolio.

Britannia International Investment Management Limited
P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queens Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.
Telephone: Jersey (0534) 7314 Telex: 492092

Britannia INTERNATIONAL
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7/18/81

The housemaster and the amateurs

UNIT TRUSTS COMPETITION '86

The amateurs beat the professionals hands down, leaving a distinct trace of egg on the face of the unit trust advisers in the 1985 Times Unit Trust Competition.

Of the many thousands of entrants, more than 50 people managed to choose the top-performing unit trust, Oppenheimer European Growth, and we had to look at both second and third choices to determine who was the overall winner in each category - General, Professional Adviser, and Under-18.

The overall winner, who collects the first prize of £500, is Barry Wood, a housemaster at Blundell's School in Tiverton, Devon. He entered the last competition, too, but trailed miserably at the bottom of the performance charts.

"If there had been 10,000 entrants, I guess I would have been somewhere near the 9,900 mark," he says.

Investment is something of a hobby with Mr Wood, though he has only modest amounts of his own to play with. "It is a way of keeping myself sane - while being a housemaster," he confesses wryly.

He is an avid reader of the financial pages of *The Times* and keeps close tabs on the economic and company news. "Everybody at the time was writing about Europe and I felt that this was where money was going to be made in the short term," he says.

He chose the Oppenheimer fund because he had speculated with a small investment in Oppenheimer's International Fund and had been quite

pleased with the aggressive way the portfolio was managed. "Oppenheimer seems to me to be a dynamic management group," he says. Sadly, he didn't have any spare cash to back his winning choice but is considering where he might now invest his £500 prize money.

His own portfolio is small but he takes a keen interest in share price movements. He says: "Like all housemasters, I live in a tied cottage and will be obliged to buy a house some day. I need to invest as a hedge against house price increases."

What is his recommendation for 1986? "Might not owe the time to be looking at gold and gold shares?" he ventures. The rules of the competition decree that only the first choice is taken into account, with second and third choices included only where there is more than one winner.

However, had we been able to monitor the total performance of our winners, the third prize-winner in the general category, Mr C. D. M. Johnston of Blackheath, London, turned in the best total, showing a profit of £142.20 on the original £300 investment.

Of the professional advisers and the under-18s, no one managed to pick the top performing unit trust. However, Chandrakant Shah, a north London investment adviser, did well with Touche Renmant Special Opportunities, which was overall the third-best performer.

Mr Shaw is an accountant who set up his investment advisory business only six months ago. This was his first crack at the competition and he is delighted to have proved his expertise in this field by winning.

"I have been dealing in shares on the stock market for over 15 years," he says - and he backed his first choice with a £500 investment in the TR trust, though he usually buys shares rather than unit trusts.

"I deal in shares because you have greater potential for



Barry Wood, overall winner: No spare cash to back the top performer he chose

profit," he says, but counsels caution for the first-time investors who come to him for advice. "For these people the best thing is unit trusts."

"Shares are only for those who have extra money to gamble - it has got to be money you can afford to lose."

What is he tipping for 1986? "Keep your money in the bank or building society," he says. "Interest rates are high."

But for those who want a flutter in shares he suggests the food sector and retail stores. Our winner in the under-18 category is 17-year-old Dawn Savery, a student at Brockenhurst College in Dorset. She was encouraged to enter the competition by her father - who also put in an entry but did not do so well.

"I don't know much about it," she admits, saying that Europe looked as good as anywhere and Oppenheimer a reasonable choice.

"The money will come in useful when I go to university," says Dawn, who is studying for her A levels - double maths,

biology and chemistry - with a view to becoming a doctor. She also intends to use some of the winnings to finance driving lessons.

From our panel of professional advisers, it is a sorry tale of woe.

All four chose at least one American fund. The general view last January was that the US government would get its budget deficit under control, shares would take off and the dollar would hold steady.

In the event the deficit has grown and the dollar slid - more than wiping out share gains in many instances.

"We were very annoyed," says Peter Hargreaves, whose first choice, Sun Alliance North American, turned in an appalling performance, losing nearly 8 per cent for investors over the 11-month period.

"The fund would have done very well if the managers had listened to us. We had around 40 per cent of the fund and we kept saying, 'Hedge the dollar, hedge, hedge, hedge.' But they

took no notice. Now they won't even speak to us."

"It is the dollar-pound exchange rate that has floored everyone's shares here performed well."

But he maintains that the United States will still be the place to be in 1986. "Europe is a very thin market - the whole European market is smaller than the UK market," he says, though he would include a proportion of European trusts in his 1986 unit trust portfolio.

He is not so keen, however, on the UK. "The UK market is quite high and corporate profits are not going to increase dramatically. It doesn't look the best value any more."

However, he would still have 40 per cent in the UK because of the currency with 20 per cent in each of Europe, America and the Far East.

Peter Edwards, whose first choice, Prolific High Income, was the only one of the adviser's selections to show a profit during 1985, admits to being completely foxed by the US market. He says: "The US budget

THE UNIT EXPERTS' SELECTIONS FOR 1985

Panel member	First choice	£	Second choice	£	Third choice	£	TOTAL £
Jamie Barry	Fidelity American		Oppenheimer European		Henderson North		
Berry Asset Management	Equity Income (623rd)	92.1	Growth (1st)	164.7	American (599th)	94.7	351.5
Peter Hargreaves	Sun Alliance North		John Govett UK Special		Henderson European		
Hargreaves Lansdowne	American (621st)	92.4	Opportunities (89th)	124.3	Smir Comps (26th)	138.0	354.7
Charles Fry	Gartmore Hong Kong		M&G American Recovery		Barrington European		
Johnson Fry & Co	(625th)	92.0	(543rd)	99.5	(23rd)	140.9	332.4
Peter Edwards	Prolific High		Henderson American		Montagu Gold		
Premier Unit Trust Bks	Income (101st)	123.1	Recovery (619th)	92.6	(654th)	86.9	302.6

Value of £100 invested for 11 months to January 1, 1986 - offer to offer, net income reinvested

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST COMPETITION

The current value of £100 invested to January 1986 on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested. Statistics Planned Savings

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL 3 UNIT TRUSTS

With over eight hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested in the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	908*	65,160	10,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 11% above the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with net income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	17,760	8,570	11,020	11,068
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	55,248	40,168

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 11% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 29-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	11,093
1965	31,320	26,230	13,482	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,941	78,588

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 11% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 15th January 1986 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	282.1p	361.6p	3.75%
Dividend Fund	341.0p	985.0p	5.71%
SECOND General	590.2p	1151.5p	4.07%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 6%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 1% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
	20 Aug	15 July	15 Aug

Next distribution 20 Aug 1986 15 July 1986 15 Aug 1986 for new investors 1986 1986 1986

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Loyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wide range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4988. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April, 1986 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you own and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (M&G £1,000)	£	-00
DIVIDEND (M&G £1,000)	£	-00
SECOND (M&G £1,000)	£	-00

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FAMILY MONEY/4

who beat the professionals



Dawn Savery, under-18 winner, encouraged by father, and Chandrakant Shah, professional-class winner, first go

deficit was a big issue at the beginning of 1985 but the markets now seem to be saying that they are prepared to live with it.

"He acknowledges that he missed the European bandwagon in 1985 but now sees no sense in jumping on. "We remain bullish of the United States - what mucked up 1985 was the currency," he says.

He also complains of "sheep-like" unit trust managers, too timid to hedge the currency risk, or doing too little too late.

He cites the case of M & G,

which decided to hedge its currency risk at precisely the right time. But he says: "They were too timid. They hedged only 30 per cent. Timidity is the word which sums up hedging by unit trust managers."

But he thinks the dollar-pound relationship will be much more stable in 1986 and believes there is still a lot to go for in the United States. He sees little movement in the commodity sector, however, but believes that now might just be the time to take a gamble in gold.

Jamie Berry is alone among the professional advisers with the distinction of having picked the top-performing unit trust, Oppenheimer European Growth - but only as his second choice.

Like the other two he says: "It was the currency management that let us down. Both Fidelity and Henderson admit that they got the currency wrong and it cost both funds a lot of performance." These were his first and third choices.

"Short of voting with your feet and selling your holdings,

there was not a lot to be done," he says. "In the case of Fidelity they hedged too little and too late."

He complains that unit trust managers are nervous of exchange rate movements: "I think they should take a view and stick to it. Where they go wrong is when they change their minds."

What is he tipping for 1986? "I'm very reluctant to tip the States again," he says.

He believes that if the US market does turn in a good performance, there will be other smaller markets that will do even better. "People forget that the US market has already had a tremendous run and I prefer Europe this year," he points out.

Trailing in fourth position this year is Charles Fry, who picked Garanne Hong Kong as his first choice - well down in the performance charts, at 625th place. He retires and is replaced by a new investment adviser on our panel, which will be revealing its selections for 1986 on Saturday, February 1.

In the meantime, don't miss the opportunity to enter The Times Unit Trust Competition 1986 and win £500. Rules and entry form will be published for two more Saturdays.

Lorna Bourke

COMPETITION WINNERS

General	Professional advisers	Under 18s
Mr B Wood Mr D Lewis Mr C F M Johnson	Mr O D Tosey Mr N J Fisher	Ms D Savery Mr A C W Peck Mr M B Patel
Their Choices and Values at December 31, 1985		
Mr B Wood Oppenheimer European Growth (1st) Mercury European (13th) TSB Selected Opportunities (358th)	Mr O D Tosey TR Special Opportunities (3rd) Henderson Financial (24th) HS Samuel Special Situations (301st)	Ms D Savery Mercury European (10th) Profit Technology (20th) Fidelity Japan (263rd)
184.7 148.8 110.8 424.9	152.7 134.7 112.8 407.2	152.1 79.6 88.2 319.9
Mr D Lewis Oppenheimer European Growth (1st) Mercury European (13th) Fidelity Japan (263rd)	Mr O D Tosey Mercury European (13th) Schroder Joint Stock Companies (22nd) Fidelity Special Situations (144th)	Mr A C W Peck TR Special Opportunities (24th) Schroder Joint Stock Companies (274th) Frankington Extra Income (15th)
164.7 148.8 88.2 402.5	148.8 135.3 122.4 407.5	140.3 112.8 121.8 372.3
C F M Johnson Oppenheimer European Growth (1st) Henderson European (20th) Schroder European (20th)	Mr N J Fisher Mercury European (13th) F & C American (20th) Antway High Yield Equity (202th)	Mr M B Patel Schroder Joint Stock Companies (27th) Frankington Extra Income M & G High Income (102nd)
164.7 141.8 135.3 442.8	148.8 84.2 118.2 360.7	135.5 121.8 123.1 380.4

* Choices were taken over by Baltic Asset Management and the Special Companies fund merged with Baltic Special Situations, which came 374th overall.

HOW TO ENTER

Enter The Times Unit Trust Competition, 1986 and you could win £500, £250 and £100. There are three categories - General, Professional Adviser and Under 18s and there will be three prizes in each. Just pick the unit trust you believe will outperform all others during the coming months to the end of the year. To help you make your choice we are including this week, and for the next two weeks, the performance figures showing how unit trusts fared over the period of our competition last year. Next week there will be another entry form and on February 1, we will also be revealing what our panel of experts are tipping for the coming year. Just fill in the entry form below.

You are allowed three choices but only your first choice will be considered unless there is a tie, in which case second and third selections will be taken into account. In the unlikely event that there is still more than one winner, the tie-breaker will be invoked. Only entries on official entry forms will be accepted and they must arrive at *The Times* not later than February 4, 1986.

The Times Unit Trust Competition 1986 Rules

1. Competitors are invited to use their skill and judgment to select three UK authorized unit trusts (not offshore funds) in existence as at January 1986 which they believe will outperform all others during 1986.
2. Competitors will be required to make a first, second and third choice, but the winner will be the competitor whose first choice is the best performing unit trust. Second and third choices will be taken into account in the event of a tie. In the event of there still being more than one winner the tie-breaker will be invoked.
3. Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on official entry forms printed in *The Times*. Photocopies are not acceptable.
4. Opening prices will be those published on Saturday, February 1, 1986. Closing prices will be those of Wednesday December 31, 1985.
5. In the event of unit trusts merging, final performance will be calculated as performance to the date of merger, plus performance of the merged trust to the end of the competition period.
6. Performance will be monitored by *Planned Savings* magazine and is based on an after-fee price basis, net income reinvested.
7. Entries must be received by Tuesday, February 4, at the office of *The Times*.
8. Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
9. Employees of News International, *Times Newspapers*, and their families are not eligible to enter.
10. The editors' decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____

The unit trust I believe will perform best in 1986 is: _____
First choice: 1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Category (Please tick appropriate line)
 General Professional Adviser Under 18 years

The Breaker: I estimate that the value of £100 invested in the unit trust of my first choice will be worth £_____ (net income reinvested) on Wednesday, December 31, 1986.

Send your completed entry form to: *Times Newspapers Ltd*, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. To arrive not later than February 4, 1986.

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Had you invested £1,000 in our European Growth Trust on the 1st January, 1985 it would have been worth £1,730 on the 1st January 1986.*

Even after this excellent return we still believe that investment prospects remain outstanding in Europe for 1986.

For further information call us on **01-236 3885** (6 lines).

*Offer to bid 12 months to 1.1.86 net income reinvested. Source: *Planned Savings*.

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Only here for the hotel profit

BUSINESS EXPANSION

Pubs and hotels are fast becoming favourites to overtake wine and fine art in the Business Expansion Scheme fashions stakes. A few pubs and a hotel are being served up to investors this week, with a company manufacturing illuminated signs thrown in for good measure.

Interested investors should study the prospectuses carefully and try to obtain disinterested professional advice before making a decision.

The Finotel prospectus, a hotel scheme, is complex - but not for any sinister reason. The company has been actively trading for a while and already has one hotel, at Heathrow, operational.

The idea is to open a chain of hotels - five is the initial target - under the "Hotel Ibis" banner. This is the trading name of a French company, Sphère SA, which has 150 hotels in France and other countries.

Finotel wants £7 million, and has already had substantial equity invested by a cluster of institutions both for the Heathrow project and the next, more immediate one - a 300-room hotel near Euston station.

Outside investors being asked for this £7 million might feel a little peeved that some institutions and BES funds took a slice of the cake, only a mere three weeks ago, on more beneficial terms. While outsiders pay £1.40 for a £1 share, the funds and institutions have got in at £1.30 and been granted options to acquire another 150,000 shares, also at 10 pence below the issue price, and exercisable any time up to the end of 1995.

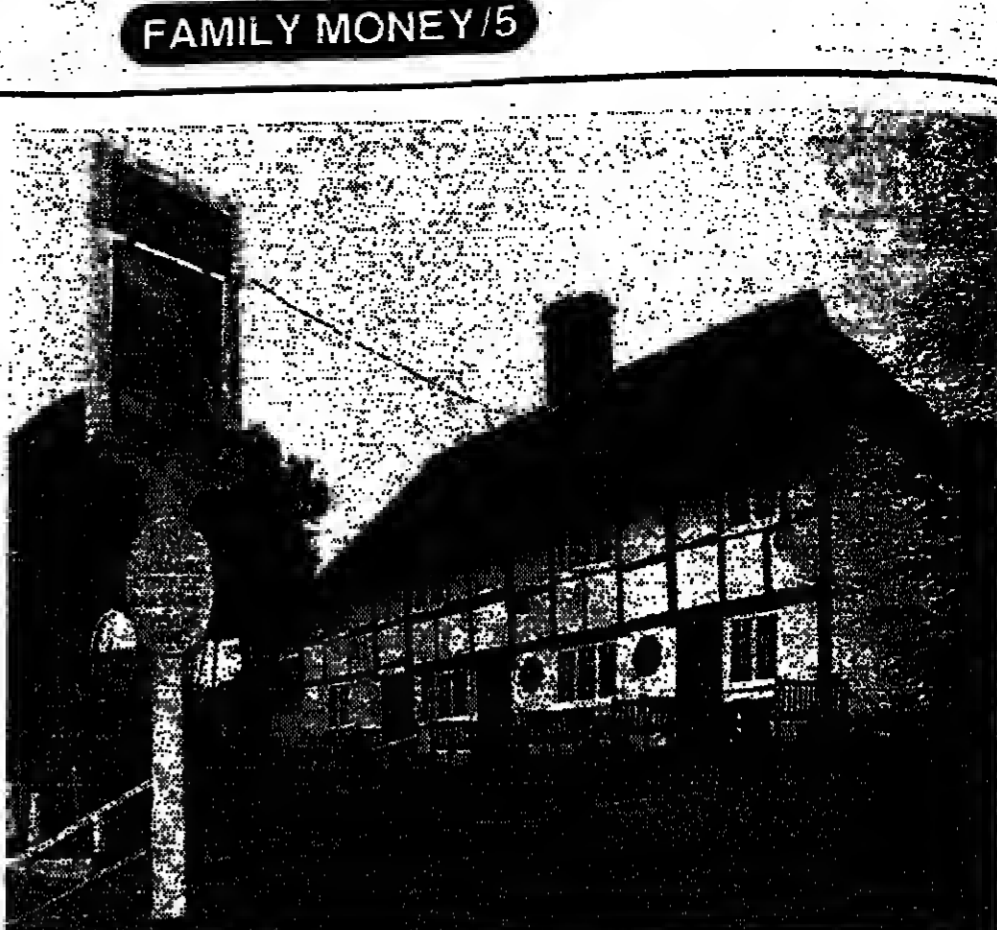
Charles Elwell of the sponsors, Electra Management, thinks this is something investors should not worry about. For a start, investors in the managed funds have already paid the funds' front-end load fees, and should, he says, have that reflected in the price the fund pays.

"Moreover individual investors could derive some comfort from our presence," he adds. "It was also necessary for the company to get the institutional money to make sure that the project was commercially sound." The money also ensured that work on the Euston project has already begun and will be completed whatever the issue raises.

The target date for the Euston hotel opening is June next year. The Heathrow site, which opened only last June, is "pretty well on budget" according to Mr Elwell, although not profitable yet.

Ten out of 10 goes to Diodex Holdings for originality with its scheme to raise a mere £385,000 (compared with Finotel's £7 million) to establish a factory which will manufacture illuminated signs and to market them in the UK. The sponsors are Birmingham-based Mercia Venture Capital and going for a minimum of £165,000.

The OPTO-Sign System is a Swedish invention. Diodex in effect has an exclusive licence to



A free house near Uckfield, East Sussex, acquired by Surrey Free Inns

is an exclusive licence over a relatively new product.

Don Houllihan of sponsors Mercia Venture Capital says: "The existing directors have actually put £27,000 of their own money into the venture, plus a year's work, some of which was part-time, for very modest salaries."

In addition, the company has had the benefit of rent-free premises, belonging to an advertising partnership run by two of the directors, he says.

The two pub issues that investors are being offered come from stockbrokers W. Greenwell & Co and Johnson Fry.

Johnson Fry's Surrey Free Inns scheme comes out marginally better because the directors are putting up £95,000 in cash from their own pocket. And £800,000 is already in hand from three institutional investors. The Unicorn Inns directors are transferring their own business into the company - as opposed to putting up cash - at an independent valuation of £84,000.

In experience terms, both teams appear to have worked in directly relevant areas for a good number of years.

The founding directors of

Unicorn used to run Midsummer Inns, a USM-quoted company. The trading results of Midsummer, according to the prospectus, "reflected a relatively modest return on capital", although the company did rather better on its property portfolio.

Johnson Fry's Surrey Free Inns is more positive about how investors will be able to realize their stakes in five years' time. The prospectus says that "it is the intention of the company to seek a USM quotation as soon as practical after three years."

A characteristic of most BES schemes is the option arrangements that the sponsors invariably make. Many sponsors

argue that, unless something approaching the maximum subscription is reached, they will barely break even on the fees they charge on the work of bringing the schemes to fruition. But some sponsors' options agreements are more lucrative, and therefore usually more of a dilution of outsider investors' share stakes than others.

In this context it is worth noting that Johnson Fry's option is modest, exercisable at £1.61 a share. In other words it will have to pay 61p more than outside investors will be paying now.

The Greenwell option, however, is exercisable at £1 a share, which is the same as outside investors are paying now.

Another characteristic of BES schemes, usually an unfortunate one, is that there are often commercial arrangements whereby companies associated with directors or promoters of the BES company will provide services to the BES.

In the case of Unicorn Inns, two of the directors are directors and shareholders of Gateway Ltd, which will be supplying "beers, wines and spirits" to the BES company "on arms length terms" according to the prospectus.

Both companies provide for management incentives dependent on profitability. Neither seems excessive and investors should make money if the targets triggering the incentives are reached.

As for the sponsors, Johnson Fry has the greater experience in the BES field, although Greenwell, apart from having the resources and expertise of a top City broker, also has a blue-chip reputation which means it will want particularly to ensure that Unicorn Inns succeeds.

Lawrence Lever

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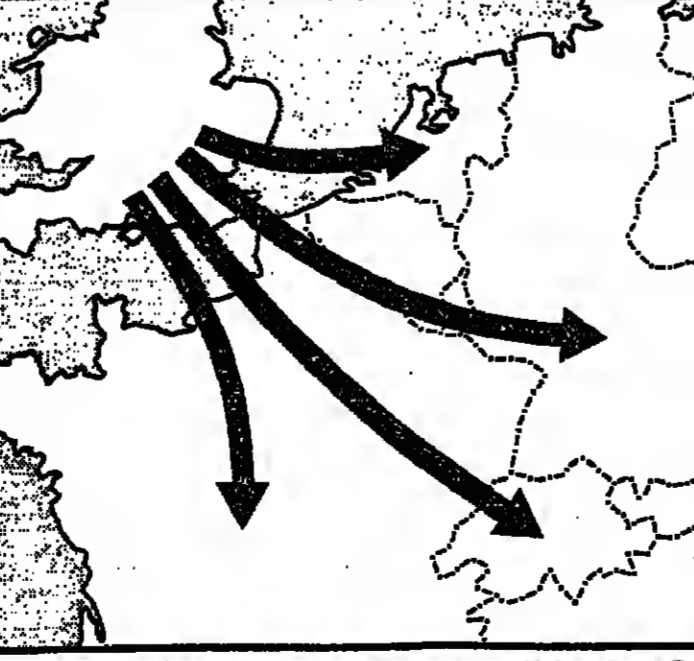
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Putting up their own money: Surrey Free Inns directors Angus Lamont, left, Tony Tishshaw, Tony Hill, Ian Cottle and Bill Hannon

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FAMILY MONEY/6

Think twice before tying the knot

MARRIAGE

The silliest financial mistake I ever made was undoubtedly my decision not to have a wedding. I got married (mind you, perhaps that was the silliest thing), but I did not do it properly, with the white dress, the bridesmaids, the church service, the champagne and most important of all, the presents.

Presents pay for weddings (well, usually) but it is the offspring who pick up the goodies — and I have spent the past 11 years trying to find the time and the money to collect a 50-piece dinner service, a dozen matching crystal goblets, a comprehensive range of Sabatier knives and the complete Elizabeth II set — all of which I could have had for the asking if I had stuck up a wedding list somewhere and let others do their duty.

I am, of course, forever buying these things — to give to others as wedding presents. The injustice of it all came home to me a few months ago at my stepdaughter's wedding. There she was, not yet out of her teens, presiding over what looked like the entire contents of Habitat. Weddings can indeed be a good investment, especially if you want to set up in the bed and breakfast business. Possibly the trick is to have the wedding but not the marriage, rather than the other way round as I did.

Trying to assess marriage as an investment sounds a faintly mercenary and definitely American kind of notion, but there is nothing particularly novel about it. The map of Europe might today look rather different were it not for crucial dynastic marriages — and what, indeed, was the dowry system, but a rather primitive form of annuity?

Daddy gives prospective son-in-law money, land or animals in return for getting daughter off his hands and supported for life on someone else's cheque book.

The dowry system gave way to a form of serfdom when the servant problem became so appalling that men invested in a wife as nanny-cook-house-keeper-chauffeur on the assumption that this would be cheaper than paying wages.

If the wife made the right investment choice she could do rather well out of a wealthy spouse — if she made the wrong move she could be scrubbing floors for the rest of her life. Nowadays, of course, a man would go for the self-financing



asset, always the best deal. Unless they still cannot tell Stork from hutter, most wives hanker after working outside the home and earning their own money. Looked at from the point of view of tax efficiency, the modern marriage might not seem to have a lot going for it from the women's point of view.

Married, a couple have an annual capital gains tax exemption of £5,900 between them. Living together, they can claim the £5,900 exemption each.

One in three now end in divorce

In fact, the only sound investment inducement for a well-heeled couple to get married at all is to avoid capital transfer tax — money and other assets can pass between spouses free of tax even if you tie the knot at the very last minute. If you do not you will be taxed — to death.

Instead of investing in a ring, invest in some good tax advice. That way you can enjoy the many happy returns of marriage, such as home and children with oodles of the tax penalties.

The cohabitee mum is technically a single parent — with a higher child benefit allowance and higher personal tax allowance than if she were married.

Admittedly father will not receive the married man's allowance but he can offset the tragic cost of rearing and educating children by making maintenance orders in their favour (up to the level of the single personal allowance per child) on which he gets full tax

relief — and they pay nothing in tax. What about the security of the investment? One in three marriages these days ends in the divorce courts — a rather higher failure rate than the constituents of the FT index or unit trusts. A chap who has kept his wife in comfort for years cannot do much about it if she ups and leaves, taking the children with her.

For a woman, traditional marriage, where she forfeits a high-flying career to wash the family's socks, looks an exceptionally bad bargain, particularly since recent changes in the divorce law have firmly put to rest the notion that a husband — current or ex — is a meal ticket for life.

You can, of course, come out of marriage a good deal richer than you went into it, provided you pick a wealthy spouse who will be expected to pay you off with a house or two if things go wrong.

But even so, is it actually necessary to marry them? The actress Britt Ekland in the United States wooed a good financial settlement out of the singer Rod Stewart without a wedding ring. And Britain seems to be heading in the same direction with new legislation promised over the division of assets among cohabitants.

Marriage is a little like a war loan — it can look superficially attractive to the naive investor but whether or not it is a good deal depends on your tax rate.

Married couples earning less than £25,000 a year between them are going to be better off, after tax, than a pair of singles living together. For instead of claiming the single person's allowance of £2,205 each — making a total £4,410 in the current tax year — the married

couple can get the married man's personal allowance of £3,455 plus wife's earned income allowance of £2,205 if they are taxed on a joint basis.

Couples earning more than £25,000 are not going to be any worse off married since they can be taxed separately and each get a single person's allowance, thus avoiding higher rate tax. But well-heeled couples with investments should definitely not get married.

For them marriage is a rotten deal. Income from investments,

Well-heeled couples should not wed

unlike earned income, is always taxed jointly, and at the husband's highest rate. So the tax bill could be substantially higher than if you were both single. Marriage is a particularly bad investment for the non-earning wife with investment income — she doesn't even get a tax allowance.

Consequently, even the tax-paid returns from humble bank and building society accounts can attract a hefty tax bill.

But the Government is planning new legislation to overhaul the tax aspects of marriage.

At the moment the practice of regarding married couples as one unit carries all kinds of drawbacks that make the institution a financial penalty. For example, married, a couple can obtain tax relief on only £30,000 of mortgage borrowing between them. Living together they can obtain the relief on up to £30,000 each.

Maggie Drummond

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TARGET Managed Fund	\$20,865*	\$2,500*

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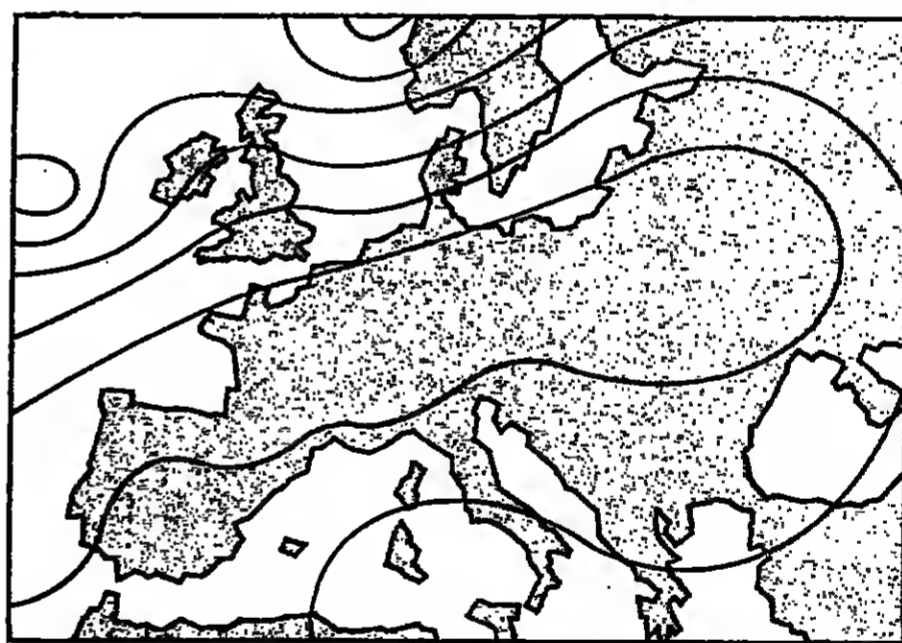
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FAMILY MONEY/7

Bridging a gap in the market

HEALTH

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Allied Dunbar is launching its first income protection plan this weekend. The premiums are competitive although they may not always be the cheapest on the market. But Allied is pledged to review claims experience and if it finds that its assumptions have been too pessimistic and the premiums set too high, any surplus will be used to adjust premium rates.

It is women who always pay more than men and under the Allied plan pay a premium of anything from 6 to 78 per cent more than a male of the same age and occupation, who have most to gain from the Allied Dunbar review.

Jennifer Pinder, a dentist.

lost her PHI test case against Friends Provident which justified its policy of charging women higher premiums than men because they claim more frequently. But the latest research from America, the US Disability Termination Study, shows that although women fall sick more often than men, they recover more quickly. But they are also more likely to survive after being disabled.

Allied Dunbar's plan has been adapted to give women a better deal in the light of experience - they are treated as being seven to eight years younger than their true age rather than the usual three or four years.

Any surplus over the amount needed to service the protection element of the policy can be paid into either a managed fund, a property fund, fixed interest, or self-directed fund with full switching facilities.

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Vivien Goldsmith

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Friends Provident	36.67/47.15	55.87/67.23	98.94/111.75
GRE	43.00/56.18	64.00/78.63	103.00/127.01
Legal & General	52.42/67.40	62.44/78.63	89.86/112.32
NEL	39.00/47.15	57.20/68.58	92.30/111.45
Norwich Union	39.00/59.23	59.50/59.33	93.00/89.00
Prudential	35.67/38.62	49.50/57.50	83.00/93.04

Figures from Allied Dunbar
The rates exclude policy charges (Allied Dunbar, for example, £1.50 per month) and minimum premium levels

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A yen for a City gamble

will generally be up to five months ahead.

Stuart Wheeler, the chairman of IG, thinks that the new service will primarily interest speculators, although a few fairly clue-up individuals will use it as a hedging mechanism. These will, typically, be people receiving their salaries in foreign currencies or running small businesses.

The fact that IG is not taking position means that the quotes it gives should be a genuine reflection of how the market is moving. Mr Wheeler says IG's quotes will be planted in the middle of the banks' forward exchange rates.

Details: IG Index, 9-11 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BD (Tel: 01-828 5699).

Lawrence Lever

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FOOTBALL

Foster can add to despair in the Midlands by proving Turner wrong

By Clive White

If the Dutch rehabilitation centre which is presently trying to seal the cracks in England's brittle leading man, Bryan Robson, is as successful as it claims, it would be interesting to see what it could do with the fractured spirit of Messrs Stiles, Turner, Milne, Mackay and whoever was manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers at the time of going to press.

The enormous depression in the centre of the country, in fact, sounds more like a job for Band Aid than medical aid. The increasing financial difficulties facing clubs everywhere have been compounded in the Midlands by an alarming lack of success. Unprecedented in recent times, the League form has gained little relief from cup competitions. Only Aston Villa of the seven clubs in the West Midlands have any interest in either FA Cup or Milk Cup. It is a far cry from the early 1980s when Villa were champions of Europe and Wolves, now bottom of the third division, were League Cup winners.

other centre half to Villa. Elliott will have more to prove. West Ham United may still feel they have something to prove at Anfield if not in their own ability which has seen them to one defeat in 11 away games. They have not won at Liverpool since 1963 but John Lyall, the manager, commented yesterday: "We are confident of getting something from the trip." West Ham's title chances which are steadily being taken more seriously, could gain real credence with a result here.

McAvennie, who scored a double in the drawn game at Upton Park in August (partly by kind permission of Gribbellier) will find Liverpool in a less accommodating mood these days, even less than in 1963 when Ronnie Moran, now their chief coach, missed a penalty in the 2-1 defeat inflicted by goals from Peters and Hurst.

West Ham's fellow Londoners, Tottenham Hotspur, are much more generous to visitors as Nottingham Forest and Liverpool will testify in the last week. Tottenham, unacceptably placed in eleventh position (equivalent to bottom of the table in super league terms) will be without Hoddle against Manchester City and Peter Shreeve, who understands that midland managerial gloom, seems to have resisted the temptation to follow Arsenal's example and give youth its chance. In any case the reserves lost in midweek, too.

Surprisingly, Falco, who may be back after a four-match absence with a broken collarbone, said yesterday: "The criticism has just made us feel closer together and the spirit is tremendous. Should he return Falco can thank a new method of mending collarbones, which was pioneered in the United States on American footballers.

Ron Atkinson, the Manchester United manager, is hoping for similar success with Robson. The League leaders take on Nottingham Forest and Atkinson and the rest of Old Trafford's 50,000 will no doubt give Davenport, the Forest forward, the once-over. For Atkinson feels he made a mistake by refusing the £3 million offered for Robson two seasons ago he is unlikely to resist the £2 million that certain Continental sides are prepared to pay for Hughes. The question is whether Davenport can fill the void.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

First division
Bham (21) v Everton (2)
Leicester (17) v Arsenal (7)
Liverpool (5) v W Ham (4)
Luton (8) v Villa (18)
Man Utd (1) v Nottm F (9)
QPR (15) v Newcastle (10)

Second division
Norwich (1) v Portsmouth (2)
Wimbledon (3) v Grimsby (16)

Irish start warm-up in France

Northern Ireland will meet France in a World Cup warm-up game in Paris on February 26. The Irish FA secretary David Bowan announced yesterday that two other games are scheduled at Windsor Park, Belfast - against Denmark on March 26 and Morocco on April 23.

Challenge of Hearts may spur Aberdeen

Considering the quality of their football and the strength of their commitment and confidence, never mind a run of 16 games without defeat, it is surprising that there is still a doubt about the ability of Hearts of Midlothian, the premier division club, to win the championship.

Form of Brew and Cochran under scrutiny

The Golden Cup meeting in Strabourgh, which opened yesterday with a light (competitively speaking) 100m butterfly, serves two substantial main courses this evening and tomorrow afternoon featuring an impressive menu of talent from 22 countries.

Heavyweights seeking to depose Horan

More than 70 boxers from 14 British and Irish universities, the biggest entry for 20 years, will take part in the universities and hospitals championships at Oxford (Iffley Road) today.



Slant on victory: Wirsberger, of Austria, speeds to his third World Cup win, in Kitzbühel yesterday

Accurate spin pins down England B

Colombo (Reuters) - Chris Smith hit an unbeaten 68 as the England B team found scoring difficult against an accurate spin attack on the second day of their three-day match with Sri Lanka Bank President's XI here yesterday. England, replying to the Board XI's first innings of 331 for five declared, were 153 for three off 82 overs at the close of play.

Smith's aggression maintains cause

An aggressive century by Steve Smith, in his first innings for more than three weeks, maintained the progress of the breakaway Australians on the final representative match of the series against South Africa yesterday. At the close they had inched into the lead with five wickets in hand.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER FIXTURES

Table listing various football, rugby, and other sports fixtures for the weekend, including league matches, cup games, and international fixtures.



Terry Alderman, the former Australian Test bowler who played for Kent in 1984, is rejoining the county for the coming season.

Alderman back

Terry Alderman, the former Australian Test bowler who played for Kent in 1984, is rejoining the county for the coming season. Alderman is currently touring with the unofficial Australians in South Africa.

SKIING

Third cup win for confident Austrian

In conditions so unfavourable that the race organizers were forced to shorten the notorious Streil course, Peter Wirsberger took his third consecutive BASF World Cup victory in Kitzbühel yesterday (Richard Williams writes). Wind and fresh snow made visibility and the surface difficult, but Wirsberger's confidence gave him a margin of more than 10 seconds over the runner-up, Australian team colleague, Erwin Reisch.

Wirsberger, aged 27, was the downhill silver medal winner in the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, but thereafter slumped into a series of disappointing seasons. Last year his form showed improvement and in his season's six downhill hits has not been out of the top 10.

BOBSLEIGHING

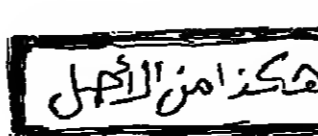
Tragedy casts gloom over European event

The death of a Swiss bobsleer in St Moritz last week - the sport's first fatality for five years - has cast a shadow over the European championships here.

SQUASH RACKETS

Hickox holds England's best chance

Jamie Hickox and Lucy Soutter, who led the English squad to an international victory last weekend, face considerably more demanding competition in the Blue Stratos British under-23 open championships commencing today at The Oasis Club in Marlow, Buckinghamshire.



RACING: BRONSKI AND HONEYDEW WONDER CAN PROVIDE SCHWEPES POINTERS AT KEMPTON PARK

Combs Ditch the solution to Haydock's puzzle

Good jumpers are out in force today, most notably at Haydock Park where the first three races should all have a hearing on subsequent events during the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham in March. The Peter Marsh Steeplechase, which is the principal race there, is a real treat as it is possible to make out a good case for five of the seven runners.



Castle Warden (left) taking the measure of Membridge (centre) and Co Member at Kempton (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

See You Then in shape for Oteley Hurdle

Earlier, racegoers saw a possible future champion competing over hurdles for the first time with the Fred Winter-trained jumper. After a two-mile workout over hurdles, led at a good pace by Classified, and Arnauld, See You Then took the lead at the last flight, and the performance delighted his trainer Nick Henderson. "Perfect - He'll reappear in the Oteley Hurdle at Sandown on February 1, the Leiston trainer said.

"I'd have been pleased to see him finish in the first four. He was doing nothing at the late Brian Taylor's stud last October, and I suggested to his owner Don Prem that the horse ought to be doing something. The upshot was we had him cut and fired, and he's joined my stable," Winter said.

Fairhaven leads tax talks with Treasury

The Jockey Club's case for the abolition of on-course betting duty will be presented to the Treasury Minister, Peter Brooke, at a meeting next Tuesday by the senior steward, Lord Fairhaven. The delegation will be led by Charles Morrison, chairman of the Parliamentary All-party Racing Committee, and will include General Penfold, chairman of the Horseracing Advisory Council, and Christopher Foster, secretary of the Jockey Club.

Carlisle in doubt
Racing at Catterick yesterday was called off because of frost. Tomorrow's meeting there hinges on a 7.30 am inspection. Milder weather was forecast overnight.

HAYDOCK PARK (BBC)

Table with race details for Haydock Park, including race names like 'Premier Long Distance Hurdle' and 'Peter Marsh Chase', and lists of horses and jockeys.

KEMPTON PARK (Ch4)

Table with race details for Kempton Park, including race names like 'Bic Razor Novice Chase' and 'Haydock selections', and lists of horses and jockeys.

WARWICK

Table with race details for Warwick, including race names like 'Beauchamp Hurdle' and 'Warwick selections', and lists of horses and jockeys.

WARWICK

Table with race details for Warwick, including race names like 'Beauchamp Hurdle' and 'Warwick selections', and lists of horses and jockeys.

Haydock selections

Table listing horse selections for Haydock Park, including names like 'Aonoch', 'Discover One', and 'Door Latch'.

Kempton selections

Table listing horse selections for Kempton Park, including names like 'Malva Mal', 'Bic Razor', and 'Haydock selections'.

Warwick selections

Table listing horse selections for Warwick, including names like 'Beauchamp Hurdle', 'Warwick selections', and 'Bosworth Novice Chase'.

Warwick selections

Table listing horse selections for Warwick, including names like 'Beauchamp Hurdle', 'Warwick selections', and 'Bosworth Novice Chase'.

Blackburn Handicap Chase

Table with race details for Blackburn Handicap Chase, including names of horses and jockeys.

Hampton Amateur Riders Novice Chase

Table with race details for Hampton Amateur Riders Novice Chase, including names of horses and jockeys.

Catterick selections

Table listing horse selections for Catterick, including names like 'Darlington Handicap Chase' and 'Catterick selections'.

Catterick Bridge

Table with race details for Catterick Bridge, including names of horses and jockeys.

Today's course specialists

Table listing course specialists for various tracks, including names like 'Kempston', 'Haydock', and 'Warwick'.

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More sport on page 26

HOCKEY England go for goals to celebrate centenary

By Sydney Friskin
Ian Taylor, who is injured but not in goal for England in the Centenary Match against Ireland at Walsden. His place in the squad is taken by Steve Taylor of Stourport. But it is more than likely that the job will be given to John Hurst, who has more experience.

Colin Whalley, the England team manager, said yesterday that the last thing he wanted to do was to look upon this match as a preparation for the World Cup. "I would like it to be a match that the public will remember and hope that a lot of goals will be scored. Not a lot of goals were scored in two matches at Dublin between England and Ireland early in 1984.

The Hockey Association, the controlling body of the game in England, are celebrating their centenary this year. England are playing their original international opponents - they beat Ireland 5-0 at Richmond on March 14, 1895 - to mark the start of the anniversary.

England seem likely to start the match with the following line-up: Hurst, Dolland, Barber, Potter, Faulkner, Duhic, Batchelor, Cliff, Grimley, Lemao and Sherwin. Nerly may come on a substitute for Grimley at centre forward. Ireland's attack will be led by Cooke of Mossley, with Filgas, Allister, Norris and Empey to close support. Kirkwood, Sloan and Burns are to midfield and the main pillars of their defence will be McConnell and Marin, both members of the Great Britain squares.

Ireland will play another match tomorrow against London Iodians at the Paddington Recreation Ground but much of the day's interest will be focused on the senior qualification tournaments at Bradford, Swindon, Wetherby and Pickets Lock for the last eight places in the Royal Bank club championship.

CROSS-COUNTRY Chance of title for Richards

By Pat Butcher
The inter-counties cross-country, once second only to the English national championships in the winter, is a fixture which has suffered more from the move to professionalism in the sport. It is five years since the top Englishmen bothered to take the race seriously and longer than a decade since they dared to think of the national and inter-counties double.

The lure of money races in the Cotswolds - there are half a dozen Englishmen in France and Spain this weekend - and even bigger incentives on the United States made in February, for which others are preferring to rest, means that today's inter-counties at Braunston Park, Leicester, should be an opportunity for Jon Richards, who has chosen not to go to Segovia, to win his first national senior title.

The irony of the diminishing interest in this race is that, at 13 kilometres, it is a better test for selecting the team for the world championships over the same distance than the 15-kilometre national championship. The potential irony for Richards is that as a Cornishman always has to travel further for domestic fixtures, it is that closer rivalry after the long journey is likely to be Barry Knight, Devon's neighbour. Knight is steadily getting back to the form which won him this race in 1982.

If the individual title looks bound for the south west, the team trophy will almost certainly go to the other end of the country, with Lancashire set to win victory from the north-east counties and Yorkshire. The junior race should be the best contested, with the holder, Paul Taylor, strongly threatened by Colin Sweeney, Nick O'Brien, Carl Udall and Richard Findlow. Darren Mendall should go unchanged in the youths' race.

MOTOR RALLYING Rohrl pursues fifth Monte Carlo victory

Paris (Reuters) - Walter Rohrl begins his attempt to gain an unprecedented fifth victory in the Monte Carlo Rally today. The West German has won four times for four different teams, but had to settle for second place in his Audi before Ari Vatanen last year in a race which Peugeot on the way to the world team title.

Vatanen is absent this time following a shattering accident to last year's Toyota. Argentina's Peugeot is still a powerful force, led by the world champion, Timo Salonen. Cars start on Sunday from six o'clock in Paris. Co-drivers are: Sebastien Lausanne, Barcelona and Monte Carlo itself. Maoy of the favourites will set off from Paris, including Salonen, the Citroens and the Austin Metros. Rohrl leaves from Bad Homburg.

They converge after covering around 1,000 kilometres (725 miles) on Aix-les-Bains on Sunday for the first classification stage. The rally ends next Friday.

GYMNASTICS Morris goes for four in a row

Andrew Morris, the top British international and former national champion, is aiming to take the men's title at the Gold Top Champion's Cup at the Albert Hall today for a record fourth year, running (Peter Arkroyd writes).
Morris's goal has been made easier by the absence of Terry Barr, the British champion, the main threat to Morris is Carl Beynon, his international colleague.
The event will be the last national competition for Hayley Price, the British women's champion.

MEN A (Morris, Beynon, J. May, S. Mason, J. Ching, G. Ball, D. Smith, J. Baynon, M. Swain, R. Edwards, M. Nixon).
WOMEN A (Price, Bromberger, Y. Austin, L. Lawman, S. Skelton, T. Howell, M. Clark, M. O'Connell, M. McCarthy, L. Morrison, M. Stewart, G. Vain).

DEATHS

SIR JOHN BARRIERS, DEATH
Sir John Barriers, 82, died at his home, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, on January 18, 1986. He was born in 1904 and was a member of the House of Commons from 1951 to 1963. He was a member of the Conservative Party and served as Minister of State for the Home Office from 1963 to 1966. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1966 to 1986. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1951 to 1963. He was a member of the Conservative Party and served as Minister of State for the Home Office from 1963 to 1966. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1966 to 1986.

BIRTHS
BARTLEY - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Bartley, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bartley. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bartley. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bartley.

MARRIAGES
MORAN POOLE - Allen, Cornwall. The marriage took place on January 18th, 1986, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Moran, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Moran. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Moran.

DEATHS
BIBBINS - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Bibbins, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bibbins. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bibbins. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bibbins.

DEATHS
BIRD - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Bird, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bird. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bird. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bird.

DEATHS
CARTER - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Carter, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Carter. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carter. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carter.

DEATHS
CLUTTON-BROCK - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Clutton-Brock, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Clutton-Brock. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clutton-Brock. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clutton-Brock.

DEATHS
FARLEIGH - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Farleigh, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Farleigh. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Farleigh. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Farleigh.

DEATHS
GAMBLE - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Gamble, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Gamble. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gamble. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gamble.

DEATHS
HUGHES - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Hughes, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hughes. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hughes. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hughes.

DEATHS
MORRIS - On January 18th, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. J. Morris, 11, Grosvenor Gardens, London, the birth of a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris.

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THE TIMES

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18-24 January, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

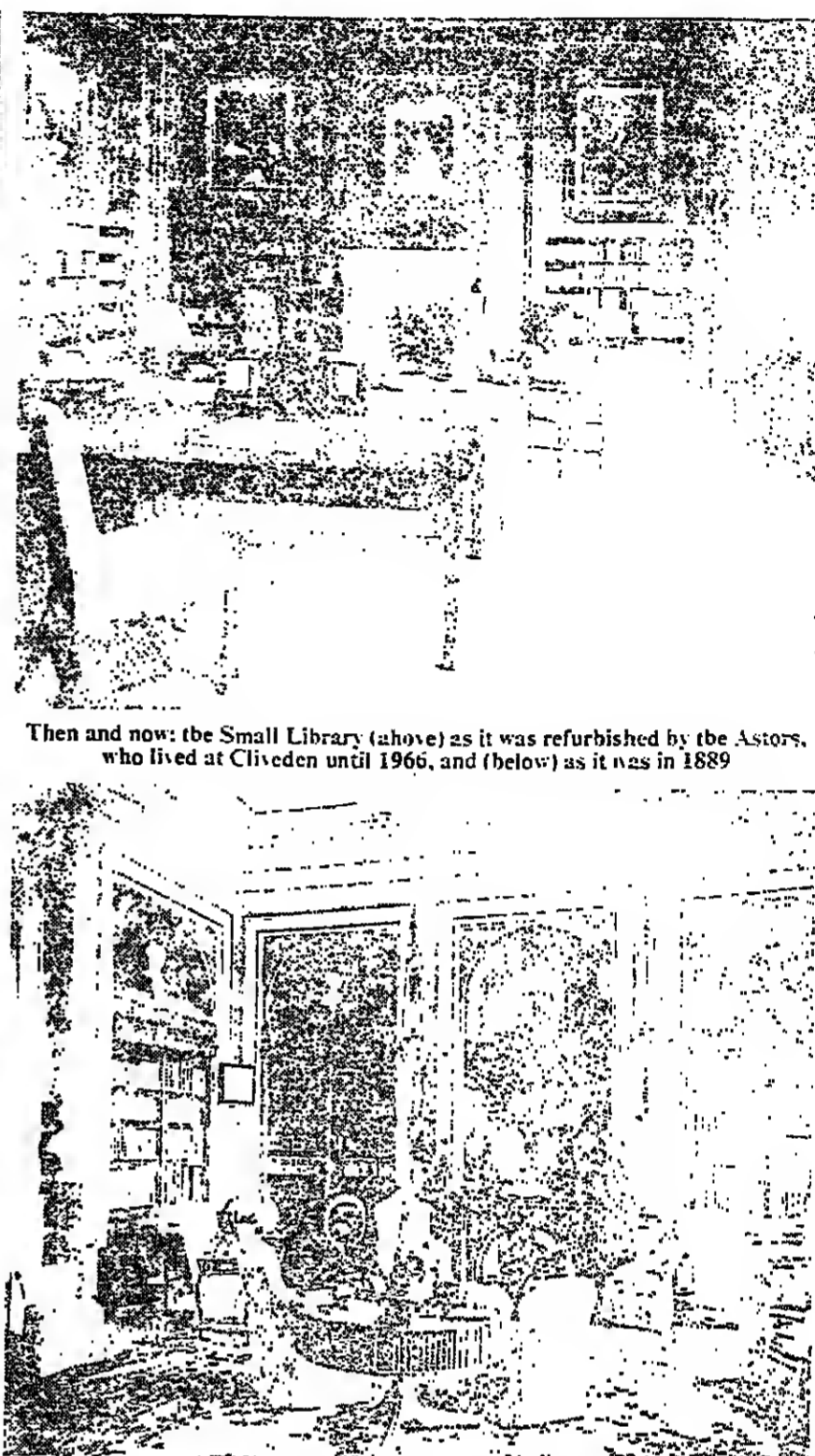
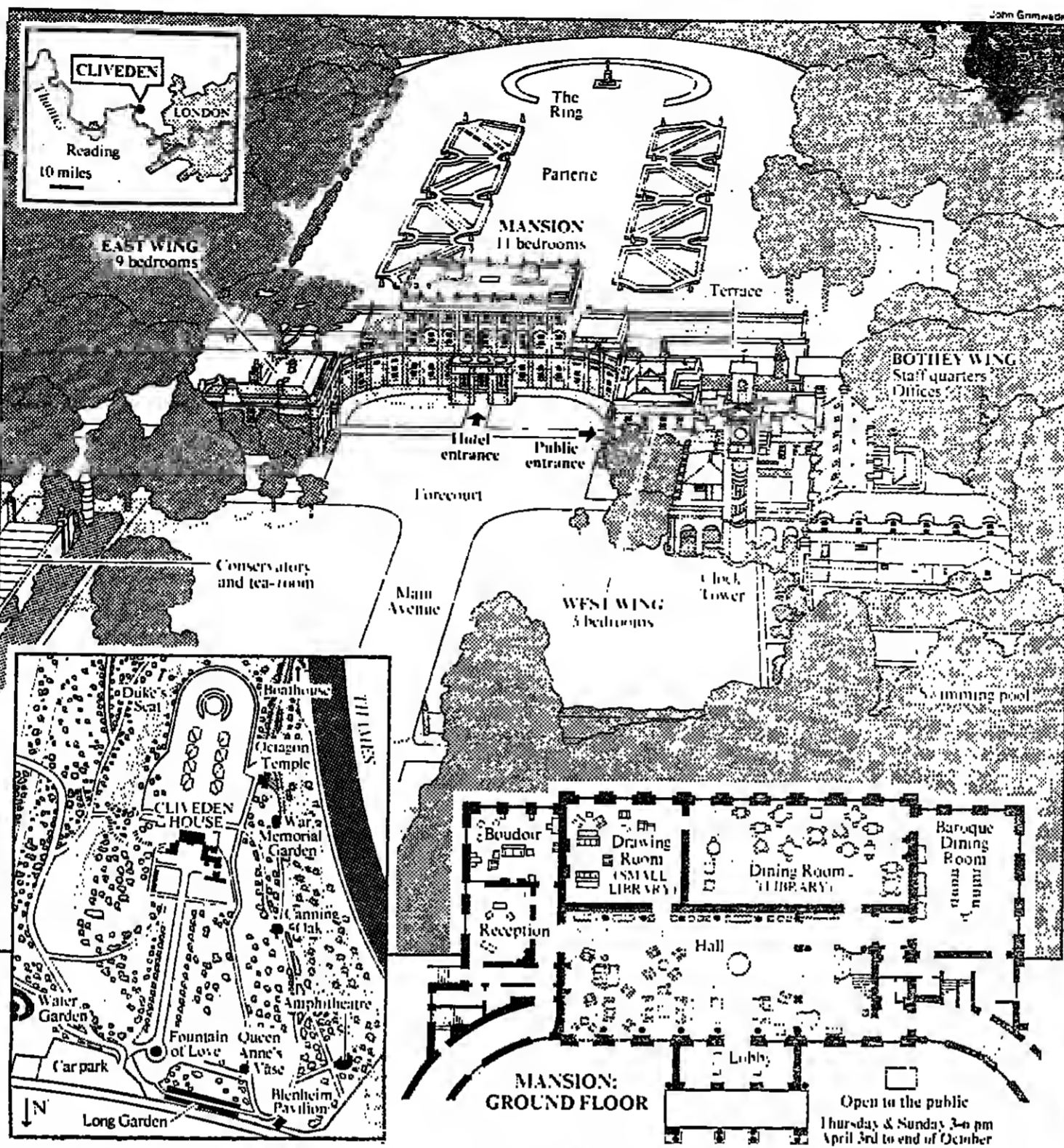
Now Cliveden's guests will have to pay

From next month, a unique hotel venture will offer the chance to live like a lord in a great stately home. William Greaves checks in...

To hand one's luggage to a footman, have it unpacked by a personal valet and be steered by the butler towards the gracious hospitality of one of Britain's most stately homes used to be the prerogative of the supremely well-connected. From next month all one has to be is rich.

For the fortunate couple who can afford around £200 to take bed and breakfast in the ghostly company of princes, prime ministers and fabled lions of art and literature, it will be hailed as a milestone along the road towards the ultimate aristocratic peep-show. For those of more modest purse it will be what it was originally and overtly intended to be - an outrageously flamboyant emporium of privilege and life's inequities.

Cliveden, that pleasure-dome of Xanadu proportions on the banks of the River Thames, an unabashed shrine to hereditary wealth, is about to become an hotel. Or, to be more accurate, an hotel is about to become Cliveden. For the lifestyle of Nancy and Waldorf Astor whose invitation cards became the most sought-after mantel-piece decoration throughout the first half of this century, has been recreated in almost theatrical detail. Only now it is for cash rather than cachet.



Then and now: the Small Library (above) as it was refurnished by the Astors, who lived at Cliveden until 1966, and (below) as it was in 1889

The first question to hotel manager John Sinclair - he is, it seems almost unnecessary to reveal, the Honourable John Sinclair, old Etonian and heir to Viscount Thurso - came from one whose underwear had never previously been subjected to a valet's scrutiny, nor had his X-registered Vauxhall Cavalier parked by a liveried footman. Are we mere commoners going to prove equal to such a lordly environment?

"We could have done things in a way which would have left people feeling uncomfortable and constantly wondering whether they were behaving correctly," says Sinclair. "Instead, we hope and believe that we've found a formula which will make them feel that they should have been living this way all their lives."

"When we write to confirm reservations we will give them an idea of what to expect and offer a little guidance - guidance, mark you, not instruction. For instance, although we only insist on jackets and ties for men in the evening we know that quite a few guests will choose to wear black tie, so we advise them of this. It doesn't mean they have to wear dinner jackets if they don't want to but it does mean they will be prepared for what they will find."

It is perhaps ironic that Cliveden, so archetypally English in style, tradition and setting, should, in its heyday, have been funded by American money - the first Viscount Astor's great grandfather was a German émigré who made a fortune in the North American fur trade - and that its 1986 sequel should be largely due to the entrepreneurial audacity of a Swedish-born hotelier.

Yet John Tham, 44-year-old managing director of Blakeney Hotels, the company responsible for transforming a run-down Bath boarding house into the now magnificent Royal Crescent Hotel, is the first to admit that when he was told the National Trust was looking for a tenant for Cliveden he was reluctant to waste his time even walking round the place.

"I thought it was a ridiculous idea," he says. "It was only the persuasion of one of my co-directors, Gerald Pell, that got me to take a look at it. Within fifteen minutes of getting there it was as clear as daylight that here was a house made for entertaining. To all intents and purposes, the building was an hotel."

"But we knew the National Trust would have to be very brave to accept us. For them it would clearly be a first. They needed to be highly imaginative to prefer our proposal to one they had already received from a major international company, with enormous assets, which wanted to turn it into offices. They were - and we've worked wonderfully well together ever since."

Home of the rich, famed and notorious

The disastrous fires which destroyed two earlier mansions on the same site are not the only sensations to have punctuated the tumultuous and extravagant history of Cliveden.

In the 1930s it was the headquarters of the so-called Cliveden Set, which was associated with calls for appeasement with Hitler's Germany, and host to prominent politicians. It was also a debating chamber for such frequent guests as George Bernard Shaw and Lawrence of Arabia.

In 1963 the Cliveden estate, in particular its cottage by the river rented by Dr Stephen Ward, became the venue of the notorious Profumo Affair, which led to the resignation of War Minister John Profumo and the dubious immortalization of Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies.

It was in 1666, soon after the Restoration, that George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, employed William Winde to build him a great house beside the Thames. Eight years after Buckingham's death it was bought by Lord George Hamilton, later Earl of Orkney, and although leased for 12 years in the mid-18th century to Frederick, Prince of Wales, it

remained in the Orkney family until it was largely destroyed by fire in 1795. Cliveden lay in ruins for over a quarter of a century until it was bought in 1824 by Sir George Warrender, a high-ranking MP, heir to an enormous Edinburgh trading

fortune and a bon vivant of such style that Sydney Smith dubbed him "Sir Gorgeous Provender". No trace remains of the house built for him by Scottish architect William Burn because, soon after his death in 1849, Cliveden was bought by the second Duke of Sutherland,



Past mistress: Nancy Astor at Cliveden, 1941

caught fire during redecorations and once again was burnt to the ground.

The duke commissioned Sir Charles Barry to build the present building and almost immediately Cliveden embarked on the glittering lifestyle which was to become its hallmark. The duchess had been Mistress of the Robes at the coronation of Queen Victoria, who became a regular visitor, as did William Gladstone, and many other Liberal politicians and writers.

The Duchess of Sutherland died in 1867 and two years later the third duke sold Cliveden to his brother-in-law, the Duke of Westminster who, despite encasing one of the wings in pink terracotta, sold it to William Waldorf Astor in 1893.

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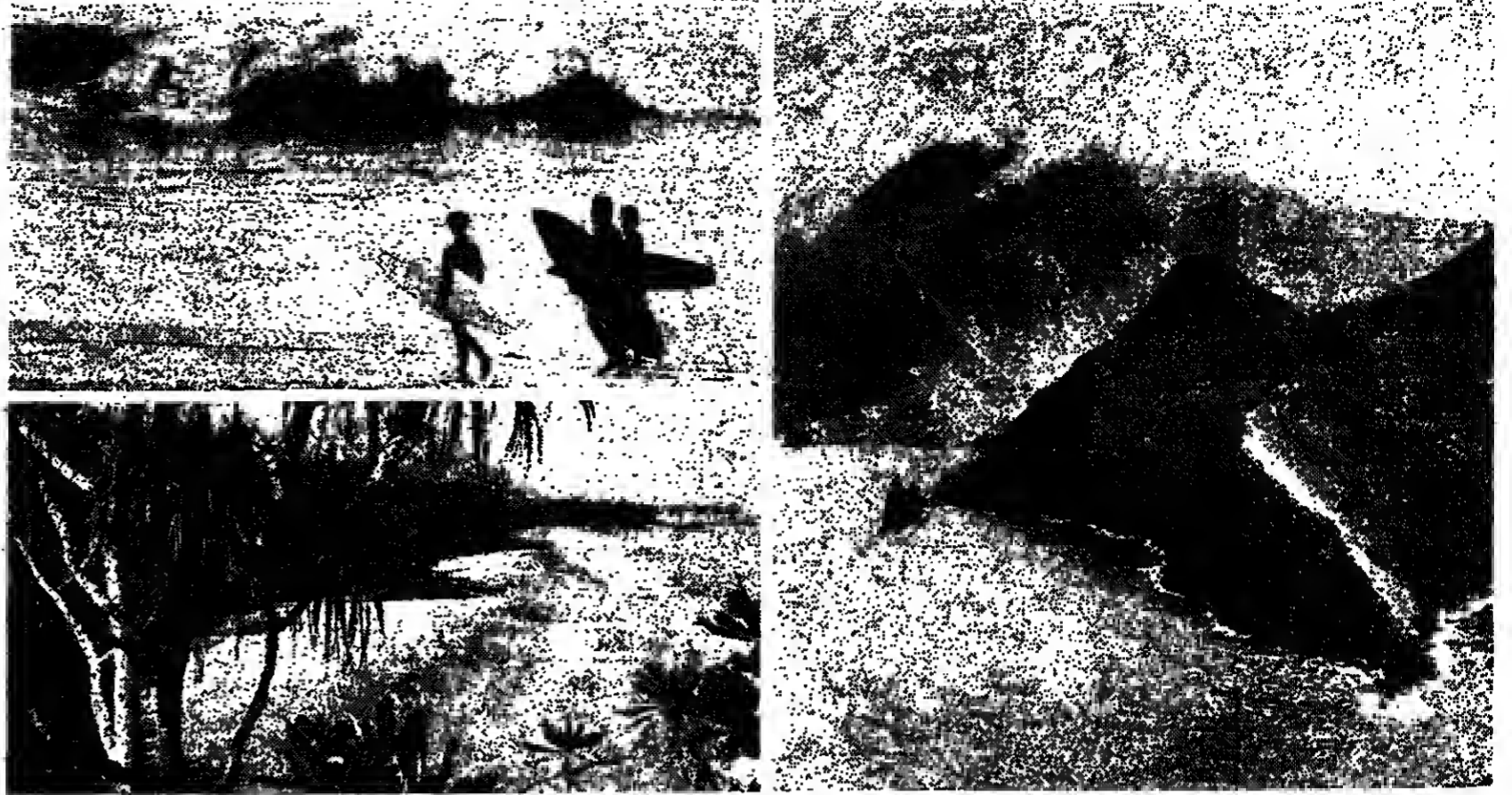
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TRAVEL

Strangers in paradise island

Part of the Hawaiian archipelago is a tourist's dreamland. But surprises are hidden among the spectacular beauties



Portraits of paradise: (top left) some of Hawaii's ubiquitous surfers, (bottom) beach beauty on Kauai and (right) the dream island of Molokai

classified advertisement in Honolulu's daily newspaper caught my eye: 'To Rent - single furnished pool \$350 monthly.' The roooooo darling of a furnished bathing pool personified everything extreme in the Hawaiian ethos. It was part and parcel of the American Dream which, on occasion, dissolves into farce before reaching bottom in nightmare, for they have gilded the lily, improving on nature at her most sublime. Honolulu has been given a skyscraper profile, golf fairways are green with unearthly lacquered sheens, Messrs McDonald have dispensed their 43th billion burger.

And the tourists adore it. They love the whole gooney extravaganza from the moment they are garlanded with plastic leis at the airport to the valedictory sip of rum-flavoured mai tais aloft with strawberries, pineapple, dinky paper umbrellas and, if there's room in the glass, small speed-boats. Meo buy aloha shirts, women drape themselves in numnum white, from scented terraces above Waikiki Beach, they sway in rhythm with grass-skirted hula dancers. 'Have a nice day' is the morning litany, and have a nice day they do, every moment until removing the chambermaid's card from their pillow, moe me ke 'olu 'olu sweet dreams.

But, yes of course there's a hut, even in Noddy Land. All this moe me ke stuff is counterfeit for the plain reason that Hawaiian is a lost language; ask any Hawaiian, except that he is lost as well - pure-blooded Hawaiians number less than one per cent in these islands. An entire culture has been submerged beneath tidal-waves of butter-milk-fudge and popcorn, smothered beneath a deluge of ketchup and platitude. All that remains is dreamland, pigeon-English, and a few well-meaning

societies set upon reviving that which cannot be revived - the Hawaiian language had no written form.

I booted up for a couple of days at the Kahala Hilton which had the good sense to get itself built the other side of Diamond Head, where there was silence and surf. Then I began exploring from a selection of seven islands. Scientists obstinately cling to an alternative thesis, yet the fact remains that the god Maui stuck his giant fish-hook into the ocean, pulled, and landed what was to become America's 50th state. Oahu and Hawaii were relegated from my choice because I'd covered them on a previous visit. Which left Maui, Kauai and an unexpected, undeserved seam of joy which I shall do my best to describe.

Maui and Kauai struck me as much of a muchness, from the pronunciation, of their names to their rather obsessive interest in pineapple production. There was the same quality of light, very precise and primary; and when the sun bowed out at the end of the day it was a dramatic affair, oo hanging about. Both had remote, volcanic interiors and deserted beaches. Both contained some of the fattest, jolliest, multi-coloured people you could hope to meet and both gave space to some of the most sybaritic vacation colonies south of the Tropic of Cancer. Kauai has a boogie at Waioli Hui La Church with the sermon text 'Jesus Saves is not about thrift'.

Molokai was my treat, my seams of joy. I arrived not long after dawn and a lovely fat lady at the counter did me a fried-egg

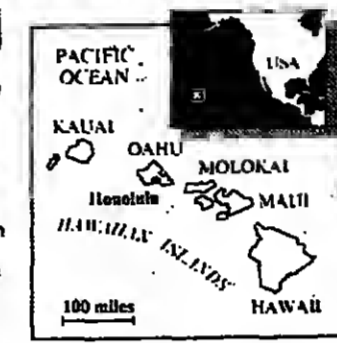
TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins flew to Honolulu via Baltimore and Los Angeles with World Airways; the 21-day Apex fare from London Gatwick to Honolulu costs from £523. Between islands he used Hawaiian Airlines, the round ticket costing £94.21. In Honolulu he stayed at the Kahala Hilton and Waikiki Beach Tower, at Kaaunaloa Shores in Maui, the Waikahi in Kauai, and the Sheraton in Molokai. Prices range from about £70 to £120 a double room only.

sandwich; then a lovelier, fatter lady filled in my forms for a car hired from a Mr John Uu. These lovely fat ladies smiled great gap-toothed smiles and said: 'You have a good time' and they meant it.

I'm trying to avoid the word 'beautiful', it's overworked; but I'm stuck, for Molokai was beautiful - 36 miles by 10 of green hills and accidental bays. I pottered about the capital, Kaunakakai, 150 yards or so of wooden buildings selling fish-bait, soap-powder and brass-icers; there was the Mid Nite Inn, but it closed at 9 pm and served no alcohol. Someone told me, dead-pao, that Molokai had the world's largest rubber-lined reservoir, which really impressed me far more than being told, in Houston I think it was, that their Super Dome could hold St Peter's in Rome. Harrods, and still have room for most of Australia.

Someone else told me that eating poi made from taro made everybody so hugely fat, so overweight that hair-line cracks appear on the earth's surface as they pass by, and someone yet again told me about the leper colony. But I knew about that. In 1866 the Hawaiian legislature passed 'The Act to



Prevent the Spread of Leprosy", and the first load of lepers, supplied with two days' food, were put ashore at Kalaulapa. There were no houses, no doctors; so Kalaupapa became a living graveyard. A Belgian priest, Father Damien, felt it was his vocation to live among the lepers, changing their dressings, bandaging their sores, making their coffins. For 16 years he did this; until, in Holy Week 1889, he died of leprosy. At his wish he was buried among the people he loved; but, because we will never learn, his remains were exhumed and taken back to rest beneath the dishcloth grey skies of northern Europe.

Today Kalaupapa Peeninsula is the only leper colony in the United States. In 1890 there were 1,174 patients, there are now 101; they are, the sad joke

goes, an endangered species. The setting is nothing less than Arcadian, a microscopic province isolated by the sea on one side, by a 1,600ft plateau on the other. There is no road in or out. By applying to the Department of Health visitors may climb down or take the mule train; and some do, paying handsomely for their curiosity or compassion, much of the fee helping to keep the colony solvent.

I was not unlike a New England village, spruce and painted; there was a church, built by Father Damien himself; it was orderly. But something was missing. There were no children; babies are removed at birth, taken to safety, to what is best for them. And where I saw humankind at all, it was in shy, fleeting movements, like shadows in a darkened room.

So I didn't meet the hundred.

just the odd man out, number 101, called Isaac Keao, who was put ashore in 1936 at the age of 11. He is not unsightly, he does not offend visitors; so he has become the colony's guide. "Don't you all resent being a peep-show?" I asked. No, he said, visitors didn't stare too rudely. "Don't you resent that it should have happened to you?" He touched me with his poor stumps. "This is the ugly part", he said. "I didn't ask for it... but it's the cranium that counts and mine's OK."

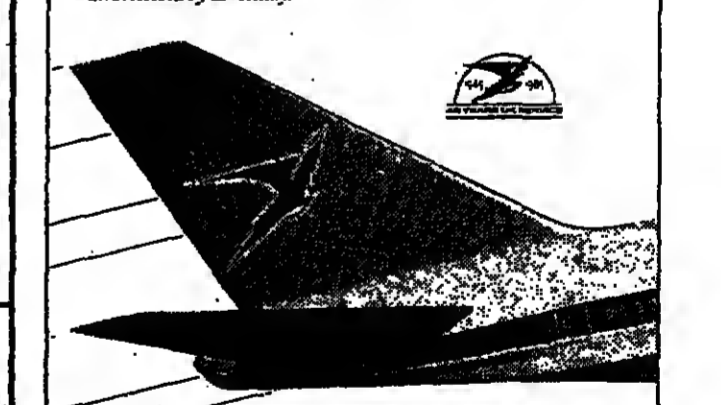
Eventually we said goodbye. We couldn't shake hands. I climbed the plateau to collect Mr Uu's car, driving back to the Sheraton 15 miles away; but Isaac and I were already worlds apart, friends apart. I have written to him and I wonder whether, somehow, he will reply.

Michael Watkins

"The service was so professional that I felt if I had left my shoes outside the door they would have been cleaned."

TRAVEL EXPERT

Extract from just one of many unsolicited letters received by us recently.



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هكذا من السفر

TRAVEL

Dismissed by some as a genteel Benidorm, the Dordogne is still beautiful, full of good food - and very French

The perfect place to stop and stare

I loved the Dordogne in 1960. In one hotel we did hear Since then I have been smoothly English spoken. It was a couple avoiding it. Freda White from Chicago, and I lost Three Rivers of France sang its another of my ill-founded praise, other books did like prejudices. A world away from wiser peasants sold up to early over-weight meat-packing ty-



River view: Beynac, a beauty spot on the sinuous necklace of the Dordogne River

Local food relies on duck, beef cream and walnuts. True, we saw a few GB-plate cars, but they blended in with the landscape, and in none of the restaurants was anything other than strictly French - of the local sort, relying largely on ducks, beef cream and walnuts.

So all in all our bill for dinner, bed and breakfast (with honey) came to 441fr, or a bit less than £38. Coming back from the north we stayed at the Hotel de Plaisance, at Vitrac, known all around for good cheap food and its peaceful riverside garden.

Active work for willing hands

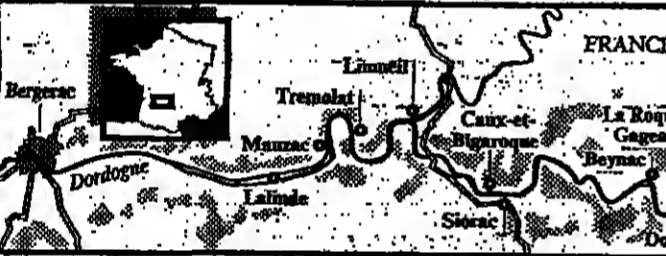
From bee chasing to dry stone walling, working holidays put free time to good use



Working the plank: a group of young holiday volunteers repairing a bridge for the BCTV

It had to happen. We have holidays at all prices, with discounts and super-discounts to bring prices even lower, and very soon holiday companies will be paying people to travel. Even so, a working holiday still seems a contradiction in terms, but they exist and attract an increasing number of people who want to put their leisure time to good use, or believe that a change is even better than a rest.

volunteers aged between 17 and 30 work on community projects in Europe and North Africa. Projects in recent years have included digging fresh-water channels for villages in Turkey, building play-parks for children in Germany and repairing medieval churches and clearing rivers in France.



TRAVEL NOTES. Hotel de Chateau, 24150 Lalinde, France (53 81 01 32). Nine rooms, 65-175fr. Closed mid-Nov-March.

TRAVEL NOTES. Return flight London to Salzburg Apex fare £105, if booked 14 days ahead, with Austrian Airlines, 50-51 Conduit Street, London W1 (01-439 1851).

Advertisement for 'The Magic of Martinique' featuring a palm tree illustration and text about tropical holidays and flights.

Advertisement for 'All dressed up and ready for snow' featuring a map of ski resorts in Austria and Italy, and text about skiing holidays.

Advertisement for 'eurovillas' in Brittany, Roussillon, Cote d'Azur, Alpes Maritimes, and Tuscany.

Advertisement for 'TAORMINA Sicily' featuring a map of Sicily and text about holiday packages and contact information.

Large advertisement for 'U.K.'s LARGEST EVER FUR SALE' at St. ERMIN'S HOTEL, featuring a map of the hotel location and details about the fur sale event.

SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

Just the job in a home-office

Working from home is a growth industry. More than one and a half million people now use part of their living space as a permanent home office...

There are three possibilities - extremely expensive fitted furniture, stark hi-tech modular units or colour-me-functional desks...

Frances Kelly moved from a flat in Fulham to a Victorian house in Kingston-upon-Thames last year because the office was taking over...

HOME COMFORTS

tables, which provides extra surface and softens the office effect.

Built-in cupboards under the stairs and bookcases on one wall, interspersed with pictures and ornaments, make the room instantly transferable for entertaining...

A combination office and living space is possible only if you are extremely disciplined, and Frances Kelly keeps her business and personal life entirely separate.

"I find it essential to have two telephones because answering the phone in a business is your first contact with the other person and having a separate one for business helps you to be mentally prepared...

She has not finished her office planning yet. The next stage is to build an extension on the side of the house to accommodate a wall of books and files with a drop-down surface...

She is adamant that she does not want filing cabinets in the living area and is sure that the next piece of equipment will be a copier and a word processor...

"Everything I have in my dining room is simply what you would have in a normal office, but I have colour from the books around me, a picture on the wall, my ornaments, flowers and easy chairs, carpets and a warm friendly atmosphere.

"Treating yourself well means that other people will treat you well because they see that you value yourself. I think a lot of women starting out on their own, maybe after having spent their lives putting the comfort of their husbands and children first, need to learn to think a bit more about themselves if they are to succeed."

"The problem when you are starting on your own is usually money. Beautifully designed office space is an ideal that not many people achieve - high tech doesn't create a friendly environment and even basic office furniture in well-crafted wood is expensive.

The compromise is to try to blend inexpensive basics with a few personal accessories to create a comfortable atmosphere.



Frances Kelly: wood theme and ornaments to soften the office atmosphere

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DRINK

A taste of the high life turns to gold

Mixing tradition with Chilean know-how has produced a Californian triumph

the Primitivo of southern Italy. He did add, however, that in his opinion the Zinfandel was grown in America long before it reached Italy...

Common or garden Californian Zinfandel is a lowly creature compared to the glorious heights which Ridge achieves and Draper puts this down to the combination of a low yield, old vines, limestone soil, long natural fermentation and cool climate...

The reason why other Zinfandel producers have failed to make similarly superlative Zinfandel is, he believes, chiefly because they have planted it in warmer, low quality areas and treated it more as a low quality wine grape...



Certainly anyone who has tasted the sunning '81 Monte Bello Zinfandel would agree with Paul Draper as would anyone on the receiving end of the glorious '80 Geyserville from the Anderson valley north of Sonoma...

Ridge, however, has not completely ignored the benefits of advanced Californian wine science and technology. Paul Draper's partners in Ridge are scientists, and one of their latest playthings has been a High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC) machine...

Draper is clearly delighted that Ridge pioneered this important HPLC work long before Davis even acquired a machine. He does agree, though, that such gadgetry has to be used with care and to enhance rather than replace the old methods.

Ridge's current production is divided equally between wines made from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape and America's own mysterious Zinfandel. These wines, from 10 different vineyards, are vinified and bottled separately under 10 different labels.

No one really knows where the intriguing huckle-flavoured Zinfandel came from and Paul Draper, like other Californians, believes it to be Jane MacQuitty

Down to business

A distillation of the ideas suggested by our three office planners produces the following check-list for prospective home workers. A practical work surface, large enough to cope with paperwork and stable enough not to vibrate when a typewriter is in use...



Sitting comfortably - the Articlar 211 by Antocks Lairn, £260.90

pine drawers, £227.66 from Maggie Furniture, Four Marks, Aton, Hampshire (0420 63535) A comfortable chair (the

CONVERTIBILITY

rest of the house so that when and if they move, the room is seen by prospective buyers as useful living space - a small sitting room or study.

She is insistent, though, that when working at home she has a room where she can shut the door. She also wanted a room that was warm and friendly where she could see something of the garden. Her main priorities in designing the room

CONVERTIBILITY

were to house a large variety of samples of tiles, work tops, doors and floors, plus leaflets, catalogues, costings and supplier's files.

These all go into the simple plastic magazine racks which hold several rolled-up plans (£7.95 from Ryman). Other samples are filed in plastic briefcases (easy to gather up to take to show clients) and box files. All are housed in custom-

CONVERTIBILITY

built shelves made by the carpenter who builds all the fitted furniture designed by Diane for client's studies, bedrooms and living rooms, as well as kitchens.

The colour scheme in red, white and pine is cheerful but much softer than in a modern design studio. It is helped by an antique pine chest, a pine wash table which serves as a desk and a multi-paned window found bricked up at the end of the washhouse that is now installed between the office and the kitchen.



Diane Gramlick: warm, friendly workspace in character with the rest of the house

PURPOSE-BUILT

David Driver, head of design at The Times, uses his home office on a part-time basis for his design work, sharing it with his wife Sara, who needs it for her freelance writing.

In planning the combined workspace he had to include a desk and filing space for her and drawing tables and separate filing for him - all in a fairly small space of about 12 square feet.

Both David and Sara wanted furniture that, although functional, would have a style and simplicity compatible with an old house. The fact that the Esia system comes in seven colours appealed to them - all the tubular frames, pedestals and tripods are available in black, white, red, grey, yellow, green or blue.

PURPOSE-BUILT

David is by no means inept at assembling kits but he found the diagrams inadequate and the instructions badly written (these are now being improved). Other faults included a high-rise unit with drawers that did not seem square with the unit because, he thought, of the plastic runners. Esia, however, were extremely helpful and made metal runners to size at no extra charge.

The result now is an office which is neat, unpretentious, efficient and relatively inexpensive. It also offers the capacity to add to the system to accommodate a computer or to extend the filing capacity.

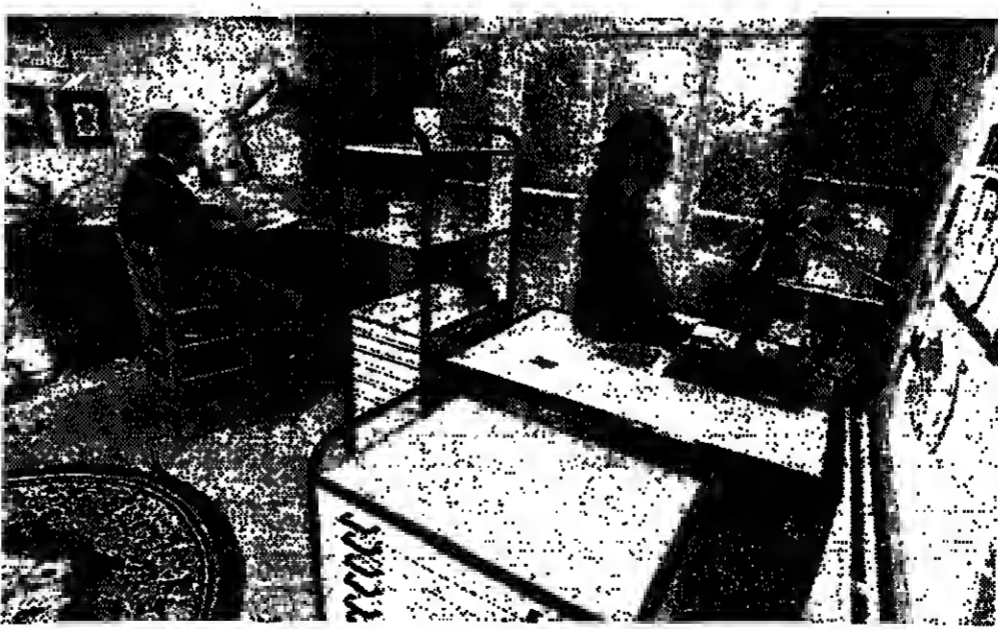
"However good you are at planning a room, you always find you need something else once you have lived or worked in it," says David, "so I consider flexibility to be one of the major considerations in looking at any practical equipment."

PURPOSE-BUILT

ranges are available within three days of ordering. They started by looking at ready-made furniture. Desks all seemed too limited in drawer space for filing and in surface space for a typewriter plus the amount of large paper work. Plan chests wasted space and nothing seemed to provide a well co-ordinated workplace.

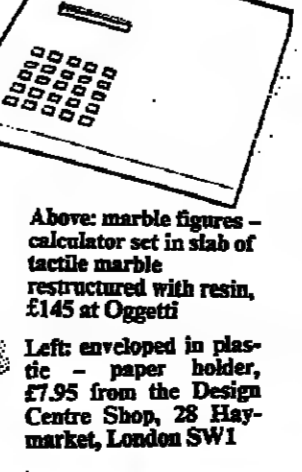
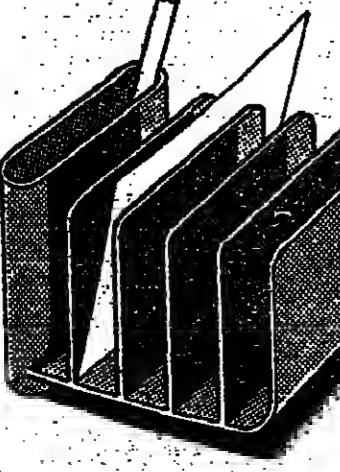
So David began to consider building his own office furniture. He chose Esia - tubular units because the system offered large work tops, trolleys to roll under the desks, flexible high- and low-rise units and shelves and a plan chest with a top that could have a drawing table added.

But it was not without problems. There were so many bits and pieces that the units - particularly those with drawers - were difficult to assemble.



David and Sara Driver: tubular units that provide essential flexibility

Desk-top accessories



Above: hole in two-Casco punch, £5.60 at Ryman

Below: setting it together - stapler, £16.85 (£2.50 p&p) from Oggetti, 133 Fulham Road, London SW3 and 100 Jermyn Street, London SW1

Left: on the rack - letter rack and pen holder, £3.35 at Ryman

Left: in triplicate - clock, thermometer and hydrometer by Georg Jensen, £91.30 at Oggetti

Above: marble figures - calculator set in slab of tactile marble restructured with resin, £145 at Oggetti

Left: enveloped in plastic - paper holder, £7.95 from the Design Centre Shop, 28 Haymarket, London SW1

OSBORNE & LITTLE SALE 343 KINGS ROAD LONDON CONTINUES UNTIL 25th JANUARY WALLPAPERS · FURNITURE FABRICS · SILKS · CURTAINS

A MATTER OF TIME The Hebridean Isle of Islay may not attract large numbers of students of architecture nor seekers of sea air. Yet there are things there to interest them both. For at the Lagavulin malt whisky distillery there are the traditional long buildings which have been specifically designed to allow the casks of malt whisky stored within to be exposed to the damp sea atmosphere of Islay. Slowly, year upon year, tempered by the moderating influences of the sea air, the malt develops the rich flavour that is the basis of White Horse whisky. The locals say this particular process of maturation takes out the fire but leaves in the warmth. Proof of their insight is in every glass of White Horse. Blended to let the malt shine through. WHITE HORSE Distinctive Scotch Whisky.

CHESS

Short cuts through the battle of Hastings

Nigel Short, Britain's 20-year-old superstar, declined his invitation to this year's Hastings tournament amid a flurry of accusations and counteraccusations concerning the size of his appearance fee.

But what were Short's actual words? My agents in Hastings tracked down the exact text of Short's letter of refusal.

It reads: "Dear Ritsou, Many thanks for the invitation to the Hastings tournament. I regret that I feel unable to participate this year due to the exceptionally poor financial conditions offered. I appreciate there may be very difficult problems with funding the event but if that is the case (which it clearly is) you must come to terms with the fact that Hastings is no longer the first-class event it was."

"It is totally unrealistic to expect Grandmasters like myself to play for an appearance fee of only £250. It is much better to offer me nothing and ask me to play as a favour for the opportunities which the Hastings event has afforded me in the past, rather than insult me like this."

David Anderson, captain of the English team and international director of the British Chess Federation, says that England can now be numbered among the world's leading chess nations: the most significant reason for the transformation in our fortunes, he believes, is the creation of a financial environment within which our leading players can become full-time professionals.

"The real problem at Hastings is the absence of commercial sponsorship. Until that can be secured, the tensions and difficulties, of which this controversy is but a part, will not go away, nor will the event be restored to the leading position it used to enjoy."

Hastings was launched in 1895 with a tournament which included Pillsbury, Lasker, Tarrasch, Steinitz, Chigorin - a chess Who's Who of the day. Almost every World Champion has played there.

Raymond Keene

Triumph and tears of a tireless genius

Dickens of Doughty Street lives on in the house where a girl he worshipped died in his arms

"Tom - I am quite ashamed I have not returned your leg, but you shall have it by Harry tomorrow..." These are the earliest surviving written words of Charles Dickens in a carefully folded note to a schoolfriend, which the future literary giant wrote at the age of 12.

The tiny original can be seen among the exhibits at the Dickens House Museum in London's Doughty Street - and the "leg", by the way, was school slang for a lexicon (dictionary), though the comic possibilities were not lost on young Dickens: "PS. I suppose all this time you have had a wooden leg..."

The grown-up Dickens lived in Doughty Street - which was then a private road, with gates at either end and liveried porters - from April 1837 to December 1839. During this period the rising young novelist wrote the latter parts of Pickwick Papers, practically all of Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby, and the beginning of Barnaby Rudge.

Clearly this was before the introduction of the 24-hour day and the seven-day week, for he also found time to write some 350 known letters, to travel as far afield as Yorkshire and Devon - by coach, to hold frequent parties, to indulge his passion for the theatre, to ride and walk.

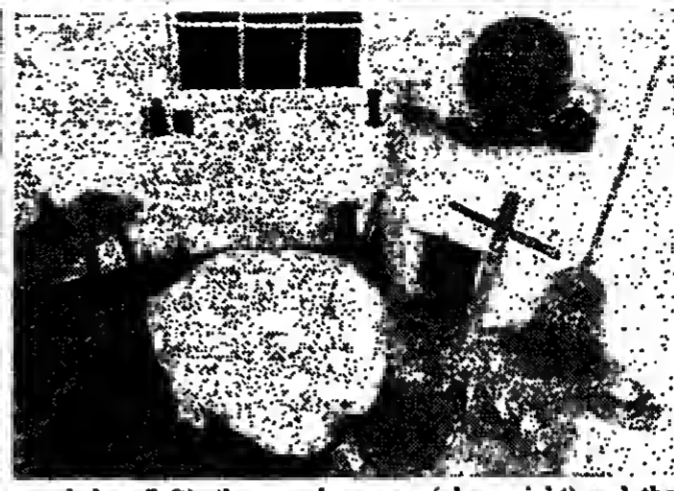
This is to say nothing of the ups and downs of his family life, which during the Doughty Street days were dramatic enough. His father was busy being Mr Micawber to the life,



Dickensian detail: a stained-glass portrait in the dining-room window (left); the morning room (above right) and the washroom (below) at the Dickens House Museum in Doughty Street

gaily running up debts everywhere and having to be packed off to exile in Devon. But much more devastating for Dickens was the sudden inexplicable death of his wife's sister, Mary. Dickens had married Kate Hogarth exactly a year before moving in to the Doughty Street house, and the 17-year-old Mary was living with them. The young author seems to have been completely besotted with his sister-in-law (and vice versa), and when she collapsed after a visit to the theatre and died next day in his arms, it was a blow from which he never recovered. It even stopped him writing for a few weeks.

Meanwhile his poor wife continued churning out babies - the first was born before the move to Doughty Street and two more, Mary and Katie, were born here. Katie lived until 1929, becoming Life President of the Dickens Fellowship and seeing the opening of her birthplace as a Dickens Museum.



monkey which he kept on his desk; the pretty tortoiseshell card-case he gave his wife for a wedding present, and a pot of the type he had to fill when approached to the blacking factory.

You can see the actual desk on which Dickens worked as a clerk at Gray's Inn, and the family Bible inscribed with all the births and deaths. There are rooms full of theatrical souvenirs and cases of books and - well, the list is endless.

Nigel Andrew

The Dickens House Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1 (01-405 2127). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm.

NORFOLK Peddars Way Distance: 9 miles. The Peddars Way in western Norfolk is one of the oldest trackways in England. It follows the route of a Roman road along an arrow-straight path from near Thetford to Hunstanton. Part of the Way is now used as a metalled motor road, but there is a particularly good stretch west of Great Massingham which remains a green lane, and which is quiet and peaceful. Here, with a generous dose of imagination, it is not hard to see the Roman legions passing by (although these days they would have to sidestep the huge mounds of sugar beet).

OUTINGS HOLIDAY 1986: New showcase for the travel industry, open to the public this weekend and hosted today by Michael Aspel. Exhibitors include the major national and regional tourist offices, coach and rail operators, international airlines and tour companies. BEAR AID: First teddy bear convention in Great Britain organized by the International Teddy Bear Club in aid of the "Band Aid" appeal.

COLLECTING

Rich waters show their true colours

It is particularly appropriate that the first trade fair ever to be devoted to watercolours and drawings will be visited by the Prince of Wales on Thursday. The development of the water-colour has been one of England's greatest contributions to Western civilization, and probably the first English-born watercolourist was a Prince of Wales. The medium came to England with Holbein, who used it for portrait drawings, and with the military draughtsmen who were employed by Henry VIII to draw true likenesses of castles and cities.



Country calm: pencil and watercolour view of Virginia Water, dated 1827, by William Daniel

tokens the innocent and the quiet mind", but the lives of many of the painters, both amateur and professional, were far from quiet, and some of them were hardly innocents. William Wynne Ryland, for instance, was an engraver and draughtsman who made and lost a fortune from selling prints and was hanged at Tyburn in 1783 for forgery. In 1779 Francis Wheatley, whose work is indeed pretty and charming, cloped to Dublin with the wife of a colleague.

For those who prefer their artists to be human rather than symbols in a table of schools, styles and influences, it is a pity that so little is known of the private life of Turner, who was not only one of the two greatest creative geniuses to be produced by England, but also one of the greatest eccentrics.

To my mind the greatest of his predecessors was John Robert Cozens. He was described by Constable as "all poetry, the greatest genius that ever touched landscape" and his deceptively simple watercolours carry a remarkable emotional charge.

be represented at the World of Watercolours and Drawings Fair which opens at the Park Lane Hotel on Wednesday. In commercial terms the English watercolour market has changed beyond all recognition over the last 30 years. Shortly after the war the few who were interested could pick up treasures for almost nothing. Thirteen years ago no major auction had produced a total of more than £100,000. Now one really good Turner could easily make that. However, there are still many fine things to be had for between £100 and £1,000.

The annual show at Agnew, 43 Old Bond Street, London W1, in January and February gives a wide view of the choice available. The most important London sales are usually in April, June and late autumn, but lesser sales occur virtually every week in London and throughout the country.

Huon Mallalieu

The World of Watercolours and Drawings is at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-499 6321) from Wed until Sun, Open 11am-8pm, Sun 11am-7pm. Sotheby's have organized a sale for Tues, Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-499 8080), Viewing Mon 9am-4.30pm, Sale Tues 11am.



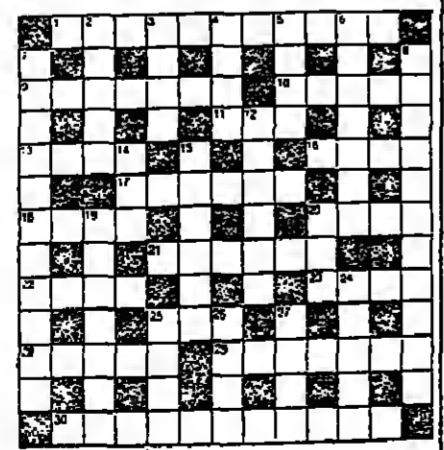
Urban hustle: Thomas Rowlandson's 'A Doorway Filtration', pencil, pen and ink, and watercolour

AUCTIONS FINE WINE: A sale of fine wine, vintage port and cigars with a bit of everything - champagne, claret, and dessert wines. MERRY-GO-ROUND: An entire fairground with movement and music, which takes up 30 trawler tables, is going for about £3,500 in a top sale rich in rare Dinky and model trains. PHILIPS, Blenheim Street, London W1 (01-629 6602), Viewing Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9-11am: Sale Wed noon.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 852)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 23, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solutions will be announced on Saturday, January 25, 1986.

- ACROSS: 1 Edward VI's mother (4,7); 9 Suitmakers (7); 10 Yellow brown (5); 11 Female sheep (3); 13 Paradise (4); 16 Sooty (4); 17 Black Prince (6); 18 Bishop of Rome (4); 20 Inactive (4); 21 Infuse (6); 22 Sole (4); 23 Trademark (4); 25 Become jellylike (3); 28 S American camel (5); 29 Embodiment (7); 30 Extreme state (2,4,5).



SOLUTION TO No 851 ACROSS: 1 Massif 5 Sample 8 Lit 9 Purvey 10 Oedema 11 Fern 12 Vacation 14 Unfair 17 S. Iom 19 Crackpot 23 Soc 24 Fullil 25 Amulet 26 Sot 27 Messy 28 Emire DOWN: 2 Azure 3 Savanna 4 Flyover 5 Stoc 6 Midst 7 Limpopo 13 All 15 Nurture 16 Lrk 17 Situate 18 Assault 20 Cafes 21 Palsy 23 Cheer 24 Sprig (5) 25 Prison (4) 26 Minus (4) 27 Tablet (4)

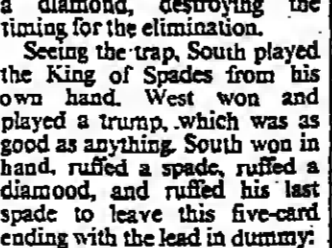
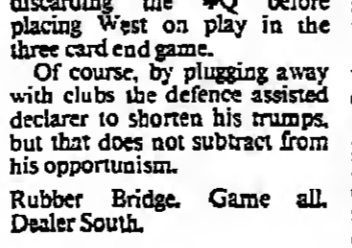
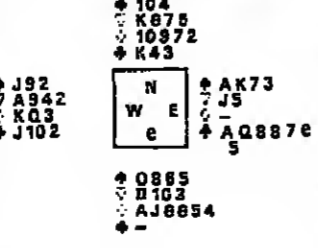
BRIDGE

Positive thinking does the trick

If a contract looks impossible, the first thing a good player will do is to visualize a distribution that would enable him to succeed, and then play on the supposition that such a distribution exists. Similarly, if a contract looks easy, he will try to cater for any pitfalls.

two apparent trump losers down to one: West's shape must be 3-4-3-3 and East must hold Vx.

4-1 club break. Once again the preliminary work required care. He won the lead in hand, to play a diamond to dummy's OK, and East's Ace. East returned a diamond, which South ruffed. It might seem natural to cross to dummy with a trump to lead a spade towards the King. Natural perhaps, but fatal also because West can win and play a diamond, destroying the timing for the elimination.



Rubber Bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

By leading the six of clubs and ducking it to West, declarer ensured his contract against any club distribution.

Jeremy Flint

IN THE GARDEN

Splash out for smells of success

The fragrant blooms of the oleander are a familiar sight in hot, dry climates, where plants will grow up to 20ft tall. In this country, however, plants will survive our winters only if they are grown in pots and brought indoors during the winter. But because this reduces the root system, which can not extend down into the soil to find water, potted plants need a steady supply of moisture. Lack of it is one of the main causes of failure when oleanders are grown here.



Pretty but poisonous: the fragrant oleander

The trick is to water plants well during the summer and feed when they are growing vigorously. Pruning should be carried out immediately after flowering, or in October for reluctant flowerers. Cut back all the growth made that year.

Nerium oleander, its proper name, but unusual plants include N. variegatum with variegated foliage, and N. o. flava plena, which has double flowers.

A sunny open site is required, and a mixture of loamy soil and well rotted manure in equal parts. Beautiful though its scent and panicles of pink or white flowers may be, everything about the oleander that is swallowed is poisonous - bark, leaves and flowers. There are no varieties of

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTION TIME

What is the best time and way to prune a variegated ivy? The best month to prune ivy is April. Do not cut, unless you have no choice, when the plant is semi-dormant. It is vital to remove any normal green shoots in a variegated plant as soon as you see them to ensure resistant shoots are variegated. Remove all green leaves and any shoots growing out of character.

Can I expect any success from using seed left over last year? Seed in hermetically sealed packets can be kept for a number of years, without quality being harmed, but the packets should not have been opened. It is worth risking seed which is a year old: sow more thickly than usual but be prepared to thin if germination is good.

To advertise in The Times or The Sunday Times please telephone 01-637 3311 or 3333. Or you may write to: Times Newspapers Ltd Classified Dept Freeport London WC2E 9ER.

Address: _____

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Take Je...', 'Cap...', 'Owl...', 'Judy Froshang', and 'The Incredible Seed Catalogue'.

ENTERTAINMENTS

GLC SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8JX. Box Office: Open Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 12pm-8pm.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Monday 19 Jan 7.30 pm THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Conducted by Claudio Abbado. Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 19 Jan 7.15 pm GUARNERI QUARTET. Beethoven: Quartet in E flat, Op. 127; Quartet in F, Op. 59 No. 1.

WIGMORE HALL

Saturday 19 Jan 7.15 pm WISH IWER. LINDA ESTHER GRAY SARAH LEONARD. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

WIGMORE HALL

Sunday 20 Jan 3.30 pm STEPHEN VAREDE. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

WIGMORE HALL

Monday 21 Jan 7.30 pm YUKO ITO. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

WIGMORE HALL

Tuesday 22 Jan 7.30 pm SCARLETT. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

WIGMORE HALL

Wednesday 23 Jan 7.30 pm BRODSKY STRING QUARTET. Programme: Mozart: Quartet in D minor, K. 421.

WIGMORE HALL

Thursday 24 Jan 7.30 pm JULIAN BREAM. Programme: Vivaldi: Four Seasons.

WIGMORE HALL

Friday 25 Jan 7.30 pm JULIAN BREAM. Programme: Vivaldi: Four Seasons.

WIGMORE HALL

Saturday 26 Jan 7.30 pm JULIAN BREAM. Programme: Vivaldi: Four Seasons.

WIGMORE HALL

Sunday 27 Jan 7.30 pm JULIAN BREAM. Programme: Vivaldi: Four Seasons.

Monday 22 Jan 7.45 pm THE COITON CLUB. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tuesday 23 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Wednesday 24 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Thursday 25 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Friday 26 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Saturday 27 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Sunday 28 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Monday 29 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tuesday 30 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Wednesday 31 Jan 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Thursday 1 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Friday 2 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Saturday 3 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Sunday 4 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Monday 5 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tuesday 6 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Wednesday 7 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Thursday 8 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Friday 9 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Saturday 10 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Sunday 11 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Monday 12 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tuesday 13 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Wednesday 14 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Thursday 15 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Friday 16 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Saturday 17 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Sunday 18 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Monday 19 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tuesday 20 Feb 7.45 pm THE KOPPEL SINGERS. Programme: Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 2.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TONIGHT at 7.30 pm ROSSINI-MOZART-RACHMANINOV-BEETHOVEN.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Principal Conductor: Giuseppe Sinopoli.

Monday next 20 January at 7.30 LORIN MAZEL.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Tuesday next 21 January at 7.30 pm BEETHOVEN.

Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor). Emanuel Ax.

Wednesday 22 January at 7.30 pm Belshazzar's Feast.

DVORAK Cello Concerto. Anne Martindale Williams.

ELGAR Enigma Variations. Philharmonia Orchestra.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Thursday 23 January at 7.30 pm POPULAR CLASSICS.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Friday 24 January at 7.30 pm DANIEL BARENBOIM.

Liszt: Années de Pélerinage, Liszt: Beethoven: 'Hammerklavier' Sonata.

Saturday 25 January at 7.30 pm HANDEL-BACH-MOZART-VIVALDI.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Sunday 26 January at 7.30 pm TUNES OF GLORY.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Monday 27 January at 7.30 pm POPULAR CLASSICS.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Tuesday 28 January at 7.30 pm BENEDICTUS.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Wednesday 29 January at 7.30 pm YEHUDI MENUHIN.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Thursday 30 January at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Friday 31 January at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

Saturday 1 February at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

Sunday 2 February at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

Monday 3 February at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

BARBICAN HALL

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS. Telephone Bookings: 10am-8pm 7 days a week.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Monday 22 January at 7.30 pm BEETHOVEN.

Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor). Emanuel Ax.

Tuesday 23 January at 7.30 pm TURANGALLA SYMPHONY.

MURALI THIRU and Agni (Premy Trust Commission First London performance).

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Music Director: Peter Donohoe.

Wednesday 24 January at 7.30 pm SIMON RATTLE.

TURANGALLA SYMPHONY. MURALI THIRU and Agni.

Thursday 25 January at 7.30 pm CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPH VON DOHNANYI.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

Friday 26 January at 7.30 pm POPULAR CLASSICS.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA. Music Director: André Previn.

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Sunday 4 February at 7.30 pm THE DRAGON'S TAIL.

THEATRES

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ENTERTAINMENTS

THE WEEK AHEAD By Peter Waymark

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARRICAN TUESDAY NEXT 21 JANUARY at 7.45 pm WINTER LOVE CLASSICS

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE with the London Concert Orchestra

BIZET-TCHAIKOVSKY-ELGAR with the London Concert Orchestra

SIR YEHUDI MENUHIN conductor with the London Concert Orchestra

THE SNOWMAN with PAUL MILES KINGSTON singing WALKING IN THE AIR

MENDELSSOHN-SCHUBERT BEETHOVEN-MOZART with the London Concert Orchestra

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE CLASSICS with the London Concert Orchestra

VIENNESE EVENING with the London Concert Orchestra

ROSSINI-HANDEL-GRIEG-DVORAK with the London Concert Orchestra

BRAHMS - MAHLER PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

BACH-MOZART-HAYDN LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

POPULAR CLASSICS LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THEATRES listing various plays and performances at different venues.

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821 PRIDE & PREJUDICE

PALACE THEATRE 457 6234 CC 437 THE MUSICAL SENSATION

PHOENIX 836 2254 CC 240 9661 OF BEST MUSICAL OF 1985

PRINCE OF WALES 01-437 8812/2 THE WINDS OF WINTER

ROYAL COURT 730 1744 THE WINDS OF WINTER

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 753 2554 THE WINDS OF WINTER

SADLER'S WELLS 279 8910 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

ST MARTIN'S 836 1443 SPECTACULAR

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Playing the dreamer: Tom Courtenay as Billy Liar, make-believe ruler of his own kingdom

Reality runs out of time

broken and in its place was a new vitality. Just why, a generation later, critical opinion should have done such a dramatic U-turn...

FILMS ON TV

Exciting and valid as it seemed at the time, 1960s British cinema has almost sunk into critical oblivion. The fashion now is to prefer the artifice of Michael Powell and the cool craftsmanship of David Lean...

Seeking out all the sin in Cinderella

It finds, in fact, spite, lust, greed and incest, a microcosm of families hating one another and a study of struggle and growing up as for poor Cinderella, she emerges as a female stereotype who succeeds only through marriage and becoming someone else's property.

TELEVISION

Taking its cue from the current pantomime at the London Palladium, Arena (BBC2, Tues, 9.55-10.55pm) explores the myth of Cinderella and finds rather more than a simple fairy story.

TRAUMA OF ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES

The Pillars of Society which give their names to a new series on Radio 4 (Thurs, 8.15-8.45pm) are six hallowed British institutions with one thing in common - all are fundamentally conservative bodies trying to cope with the pressure to change.

Another is Scotland Yard, where well-tried methods of policing are increasingly questioned in the face of racial conflict and inner city violence. Other programmes deal with the history of the General Electric Company and an institution that has largely resisted outside scrutiny, the Inland Revenue.

Hunting Group Art Prizes NATIONAL OPEN ART COMPETITION Prizes totalling £15,000

To advertise in The Times or The Sunday Times please telephone 01-837 3311 or 3333 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Alternatively you may write to: Times Newspapers Ltd, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BR

THE WEEK AHEAD



JAZZ DANGER WOMAN: Nina Simone is one of jazz's most gifted and wayward daughters...



THEATRE RIGHT CHARLIE: Roald Dahl wrote his magical children's story, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory...



FILMS BROWNE STUDY: Coral Browne plays Alice Hargreaves, the inspiration for Alice in Wonderland...



RADIO RIB TICKLER: Ken Dodd, the sage of Knotty Ash, is back on radio for the first time in five years...



OPERA GRAND DAME: Gwyneth Jones, the Welsh soprano who was made a Dame in the New Year's Honours List...



CONCERTS CENTURY MAKER: Eugen Jochum takes over from Lorin Maazel to conduct the Philharmonia Orchestra...

Lifting the lid on Britain's upper crust

Emma Tennant, tall, blonde, her nails full of the pheasant she has been plucking, stands briefly at her window off London's Ladbroke Grove...

Lack of money has never prevented Emma Tennant from living in style, as her new book reveals...

Scotland. During the war she ate powdered egg in the basement. After the war she went south, to St Paul's School, which she hated...

She was dubbed the girl who put the Che into Cheyne Row by Private Eye after marriage to Alexander Cockburn...

She was dubbed the girl who put the Che into Cheyne Row by Private Eye after marriage to Alexander Cockburn...

Hayley's rocket The actress Hayley Mills may well receive a writ for substantial damages because she has decided to star in a remake of one of her most successful films...

ARTS DIARY

Hayley's rocket The actress Hayley Mills may well receive a writ for substantial damages because she has decided to star in a remake of one of her most successful films...

CONCERTS

BEETHOVEN/BRAHMS: Hans vonk conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's bucolic Symphony No 6...

OPENINGS

BOUNCERS: John Godber's sharp satire, on nightclub "securo men" brought back to London by the originating Hull Truck Company...

SELECTED

DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the equally chilling Bosola in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker...

OPENINGS

BOUNCERS: John Godber's sharp satire, on nightclub "securo men" brought back to London by the originating Hull Truck Company...

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Tonight, Wed and Jan 25 at 7 pm, the star-crossed revival of Simon Boccanegra...

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Just two showings of Manon this week; with Antoinette Sibley (Mon) and Lesley Collier (Thurs)...

GALLERIES

WHITECHAPEL OPEN: Contemporary art of all sorts from amateur and professional East End artists...

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE LIVES OF LEE MILLER: Fashion model, documentary photographer, war correspondent Lee Miller led an extraordinary life...

FILMS

BEFORE STONEWALL (15): Lively documentary by Greta Schiller investigating gay and lesbian American life before the Stonewall Inn...

THEATRE

BLITHE SPIRIT: Peter Farago directs Marcia Warren as Madame Arcati, Joanna Lumley, Jane Asher...

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE: LIZA MINNELLI: Booking open for Liza Minnelli at London Palladium...

BOOKINGS

LAST CHANCE: SHOTS OF STYLE: International exhibition of fashion photography selected by David Bailey...

BOOKINGS

ROCK & JAZZ: MARRILION: There is a lot of early-1970s silliness in their approach...

BOOKINGS

ISLAND STORIES: Performance art combining video, sound-track and body movement by Nigel Rolfe...

BOOKINGS

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed...

BOOKINGS

Novel attempt The fact that he is the husband of Bridget Brophy did not hold the critics back from their mixed reception of Sir Michael Levey's first two novels...